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Silas Bronson

FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

OF THE

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Forty-First Annual Report

FOR 1909

FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

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BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Forty-First Annual Report

FOR 1909

WATERBURY, CONN.
1910

The Heminway Press

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

OFFICERS OF
THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY
1909

BOARD OF AGENTS

Martin Scully, 150 Sylvan Ave.	Term expires July 4, 1912
James S. Elton, 70 Church St.	" " " 4, 1912
Herbert A. Tullar, Waterville	" " " 4, 1914
Mark L. Sperry, 21 Cooke St.	" " " 4, 1914
James E. Russell, 34 Chestnut Ave.	" " " 4, 1916
Frederick J. Kingsbury, 80 Prospect St.	" " " 4, 1916
John O'Neill, 131 Cooke St.	" " " 4, 1918
Terrence F. Carmody, 2 Chestnut Ave.	" " " 4, 1918
Francis P. Guilfoile, 36 North Main St.	" " " 4, 1920
John P. Kellogg, 144 Buckingham St.	" " " 4, 1920
Bernard H. Fitzpatrick, 201 Willow St.	" " " 4, 1922
Lewis A. Platt, 36 Buckingham St.	" " " 4, 1922

OFFICERS

John O'Neill ..... *President*
Lewis A. Platt ..... *Secretary*
Otis S. Northrop ..... *Treasurer*

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry, *Librarian*
Alice M. Gibby, *Chief, Loan Department*
Edith McH. Steele, *Cataloger*
Eleanor M. Beers, *Children's Librarian*
Myrtie A. Northrop, *Supervisor of Branches*

Louise Katherine Campion
Bessie B. Richardson
Sarah N. Church
Mrs. Mary C. Carroll
Mary J. Fagan
Mary C. Fay

Sadie Kennedy, *Brooklyn Branch*
Maud Davis, *Waterville Branch*
Mrs. W. H. Wood, *South Branch*
Curtis N. Hall, *Janitor*

Library hours, 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. Reading-room open Sundays, 2 to 6 P. M., September to April inclusive.

Report of the Secretary

The continued annual appropriation by the city has enabled the Library, not only to maintain the District Branches already established, but to start still another one in Brooklyn.

While it is too early to decide definitely as to the success of this branch, it is believed that it will supply a need long felt in this district.

It has been found that meetings of societies of various kinds could not be held in the Library building without disturbing those who wished to use the Library for the purpose of reading and investigation. Accordingly it was decided to withdraw, for the present, permission to these societies to hold meetings in the Library building.

At the city election, held October 4th, 1909, B. H. Fitzpatrick and Lewis A. Platt were elected members of the Board of Agents for terms expiring July 1st, 1922.

The Holmes Scholarship in the class of 1913 Yale Academic, was awarded to J. J. Fitzgerald.

LEWIS A. PLATT, *Secretary*.

WATERBURY, CONN., April 1, 1910.

Report of the Librarian

To the Board of Agents of the Silas Bronson Library:

The report of the work of the Library for the year ending December 31, 1909 is herewith submitted:

Books on hand January 1, 1909		77,522
Additions by purchase January — December		6,054
Government documents		177
Gifts		85
Periodicals bound		151
Exchanges, etc		26
		84,015
Condemned, main library	2,032	
Condemned, school libraries	367	
Lost, main library	14	
Lost, school libraries	26	
Missing, adult department	89	
Missing, juvenile department	102	2,630
On hand, January 1, 1910		81,385

Of the books worn out and condemned, 1,481 were fiction and 551 non-fiction, the latter chiefly children's books. Those reported missing were absent from the shelves at the time of the inventory in 1908, have not since been found, and are now deducted from the total number in the library. Losses of this sort (due to the open shelf system) consist chiefly of fiction—about two-thirds, this year—a fact which seems to indicate that failure to return the books is due to negligence rather than to any systematic plan for forming a library.

The additions, not including government documents, are classified as follows:

		Adult Vols.	Juvenile Vols.
0	General works	228	2
1	Philosophy	16	1
2	Religion	55	42
3	Sociology	138	55
4	Language	25	0
5	Science	76	100
6	Useful arts	242	51
7	Fine arts	152	73
8	Literature	258	196
9	History	93	272
91	Travel	96	343
92	Biography	98	194
	Fiction	1,743	1,767
	Total	3,220	3,096

Novels and children's stories formed 70 per cent. of the additions and absorbed 49 per cent. of the book fund; but part of this money was refunded through the pay collection of novels, which returned $276.40 on an expenditure of $278.00. Even with this reduction, the amount spent on fiction is too large, if the function of the library as an educational institution is to be considered. Libraries everywhere realize that their funds are insufficient to meet the popular demand for fiction; and the booksellers' circulating libraries, with their rental of two cents a day on each volume, are gradually solving the problem. That the standard fiction should be furnished in clean and well-bound copies is desirable; but to accomplish this, the purchase of novels of the day must be confined to a selection of the best. Novels furnished in durable library bindings numbered 463, their cost ranging from 40 to 60 cents more apiece than that of the ordinary editions. These books, however, prove cheaper in the end, and give better service to the public, as they remain in constant use and wear out by degrees, without rebinding.

Among books assigned to the reading-room were Fulton's Illustrated Book of Pigeons; Stieler's Atlas of Modern Geography; the latest edition of the Standard Dictionary, 2v.; and the New International Encyclopedia, 16v.

Important bibliographical publications received were Bowker's List of the Official Publications of the States of the United States; The Carnegie Institute's Handbook of Learned Societies of America; and The Index to Economic Material contained in Documents of the States, compiled by Miss Adelaide Hasse.

The government documents, with their pamphlet "separates" bringing subjects of current interest to date, were regularly received and proved useful in our reference work. They were all gifts except the Reprint of the Records of the Virginia Co. of Lond n, 2v. for which the nominal price of $4.00 asked by the government was paid.

Reference books in the Useful Arts were L'Assainissement des Villes, 5v., bought at the request of the City Engineer, and the bound volumes of Specifications and Drawings of Patents issued through the year.

Mackey's History of Freemasonry, 7v. was purchased because of its interest to the fraternity. It is illustrated with beautiful drawings and colored plates, and contains an account of the legends and traditions of the order, and a history of its symbolism, in addition to the chronological history.

The art reference collection received Cartwright's Life and Art of Botticelli; Gulland's Chinese Porcelain, 2v; Holme's

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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

READING-ROOM

Representative Art of our Time, with reproductions in color; Macartney's Practical Exemplar of Architecture, with measured drawings in design; Strange's English Furniture, and his Historical Guide to French Furniture.

Foreign books numbered 133 volumes, of which 93 were Bohemian, 36 Yiddish, and 4 French.

The special collection of history and genealogy received 28 additions, making a total of 2,150 volumes in that department.

Of the 2,630 books worn out or lost, 840 were replaced by new copies.

Titles of periodicals received during the year numbered 123. Of these, 26 relate to science and technical arts, 18 to fine arts and amusements, and 6 to history and genealogy. Extra copies of the *Atlantic*, *Century*, *Delineator*, *Everybody's*, *Harper's Monthly*, *McClure's*, *Munsey*, *Outlook*, *St. Nicholas*, *Scribner's*, *World's Work*, and *Cosmopolitan* were put in temporary covers and issued for home reading.

Pamphlets. Besides books, thousands of pamphlets dealing with the latest phases of thought, were received and examined by the librarian, and those of special interest were displayed in the reading-room and some of them cataloged. All pamphlets received are finally classified on the shelves according to the logical divisions of the Dewey system, and form a valuable part of our reference material.

Summary. The records of the five years 1905 to 1909, show an increase of 88,000 volumes in the circulation of books, but a growth of only 8,000 volumes in the actual size of the library. This has not been sufficient to counterbalance the deterioration of the books by constant handling, a result which is now evident in the circulation department. While paper and binding grow poorer, prices increase and the problem of meeting the extra expense can only be solved by an increase in the library's income.

CIRCULATION

The circulation, including that of the school libraries and the two branches, was 211,805 volumes, a decrease of 6,894 from the preceding year. The falling off was in the main library and was divided between the adult department and the Children's Room, the decrease in both cases being chiefly in the use of fiction.

The school libraries issued nearly 4,000 more books than last year, and the work of the branches brought the total within a few thousand volumes of last year's issue of books.

Fiction formed about 67 per cent. of the circulation in the Children's Room, and 72 per cent. (foreign books included)

in the adult department of the main library. The issue of books in foreign languages was divided as follows: French, 1,248; German, 1,043; Italian, 936; Swedish, 91; Bohemian, 113; Yiddish, 302; total 3,733, being a decrease since last year of 1,578 v.

In the adult department, the most popular class next to Fiction and General Literature was Useful Arts, particularly Engineering and its subdivisions; but in the Children's Room, History, Biography and Travel were in the lead.

Divided by months, the year's circulation as compared with that of the year preceding, was as follows:

	1907	1908	1909
January	10,598	15,085	15,008
February	10,613	15,038	14,948
March	12,237	17,431	16,301
April	11,181	15,045	12,835
May	10,212	13,855	12,321
June	9,243	13,092	11,368
July	9,700	12,745	10,685
August	9,049	13,069	9,861
September	9,898	12,345	10,153
October	12,221	14,325	11,644
November	13,967	13,789	12,847
December	12,810	13,382	11,554
	131,819	169,201	149,535
School libraries	34,066	39,847	43,578
*Waterville Branch	3,539	7,056	7,399
South Branch	.....	2,595	3,018
Brooklyn Branch (3 mos.)	.....	.....	8,275
	169,424	218,699	211,805

Circulation by classes, in main library, January to December, 1909:

	Adult	Juvenile	Per cent	Per cent
General works	7,807	271	7.21	.66
Philosophy	719	20	.66	.05
Religion	1,190	383	1.10	.93
Sociology	1,738	526	1.61	1.28
Language	424	21	.39	.05
Science	2,017	1,331	1.86	3.23
Useful arts	2,720	467	2.51	1.13
Fine arts	2,445	1,372	2.26	3.32
Literature	4,422	1,618	4.08	3.92
Travel	2,524	2,327	2.33	5.64
Biography	1,718	2,221	1.59	5.39
History	2,340	3,095	2.16	7.48
Fiction	78,219	27,600	72.24	66.91
	108,283	41,252	100.00	100.00

* Waterville Branch circulation in 1907, covered ten months only; that of the South Branch in 1908, eight months.

The main library was open for the circulation of books 304 days.

Average per month, 12,461 volumes. Average per day, 491. The largest monthly circulation was that of March (16,301 volumes), and the largest day February 13th (1251), exceeding the issues of any one day since the opening of the library.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

The collection now numbers 5,454 volumes, distributed as follows:

Bishop Street	400
Buck's Hill	110
Bunker Hill	326
Chapel Street	159
Hopeville	221
Lincoln	359
Merriman	270
Mill Plain	236
Mulcahy	394
Park Road	111
Russell	185
Town Plot	279
Washington	565
Waterville	497
Waterbury Industrial	175
Webster	950
Croft (2 grades sent)	117
East Farms	100
	5,454
Reserve collection	1,754
Special collection of fairy tales	95
Reference collection of children's books	114
Total	7,417

CIRCULATION IN SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Bishop Street	4,289
Bunker Hill	1,463
Chapel Street	912
Croft	8,313
East Farms	172
Hopeville	914
*Lincoln	492
Merriman	1,274
Mill Plain	999
Mulcahy	3,109
Park Road	982
Town Plot	1,119
Washington	6,691
Waterville	2,338
Webster	9,409
	42,476
Waterbury Industrial	1,102
Total	43,578

* Sent April 30.

LIBRARY BRANCHES

The Brooklyn Branch of the Bronson Library was opened October 23, 1909, in the old Protector engine house on Bank Street, the building being assigned to this use by vote of the Board of Aldermen, and fitted up at the expense of the city. Great excitement prevailed on the day of opening among the children of the neighborhood, and when they were allowed to enter the library, their delight knew no bounds. The newly varnished woodwork of Carolina pine, the rose-tinted walls, and the new books in gay covers combined to produce a state of delirious excitement. In two days, no children's books were left on the shelves, and the staff of the main library had to leave other important work to provide fresh supplies for this latest extension of the work. Since the first day, the Brooklyn Library has been open on alternate afternoons and evenings, and has required the services of two and sometimes three assistants. The original collection of 1,000 books has been nearly doubled and the circulation has maintained an even rate of 4,000 per month, of which all but 300 volumes per month have been children's books. Miss Sadie Kennedy is in charge, with such assistance as can be given by boys from the neighboring schools, in charging

and discharging books. It is desirable that the city appropriation next year be such as to enable us to fit up a room for adults, as the restlessness of the children interferes with the use of the library by their elders.

At the South Waterbury Branch, there was a falling off in the issue of books during 1909; and, because of the insufficient heat and ventilation, the library room was little used for general reading. At Waterville, the circulation increased slightly during the year, and an encouraging interest in the library as a source of information is reported. At the request of Miss Davis, the librarian, an encyclopedia and an English dictionary were added to the small collection of reference books. The number of readers using the room was 2,362 for the year. Books sent to Waterville on special orders numbered 185, about 71 volumes more than in 1908.

Fiction issued at Waterville as well as at the South Branch, formed 80 per cent. of the circulation, and at Brooklyn only 56 per cent.

Miscellaneous Expenses

	Brooklyn	Waterville	South Branch
Equipment.....	$189.44	.....	.....
Miscellaneous.....	32.81	$ 55.49	$12.62
Lights and fuel.....	24.52	39.86	20.00
Salaries.....	79.85	252.70	75.00
Telephone.....	.....	25.00	.....
Rent.....	.....	120.00	.....
	$326.62	$493.05	$107.62

Receipts from fines amounted to $8.04 in Brooklyn, $44.32 in Waterville, and $18.00 in the South Branch.

The Brooklyn Branch, with a collection of 1,669 volumes, issued in two months, 8,275 volumes; Waterville circulated for the year 7,399 volumes from a collection of 693 books; and the South Branch issued 3,018 on a basis of 579 volumes.

Books are not included in the statement of expenses given above, but a dollar each is a fair estimate of their cost if allowance is made for the time of the librarian and assistants in their selection and cataloguing.

The Waterville Branch was the most expensive of the three in proportion to the number of the books circulated; but this was due to the additional items of rent and telephone.

The circulation of the Brooklyn Branch for two months, exceeded that of each of the other branches for the year, but it is practically a library for the schools, the issues to grown people being less than 1 per cent. of the total. At

Waterville, the children are provided with deposit libraries in the Sprague School, and, at South Waterbury, the Chapel Street and Hopeville schools supply the demand for children's books. The number of library books available in the three districts is as follows: Brooklyn, 1,669; South Waterbury, 959; Waterville, 1,190. Circulation: Brooklyn, 8,275 (2 months); Waterville and South Waterbury, including the schools, respectively, 9,737 and 4,844 for the year. Average per month: Brooklyn, 4,138; Waterville, 812; South Waterbury, 404.

Hours of opening have been 20 per week in Waterville, 16 in Brooklyn, and 10 in the South Branch.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The use of the Library as a source of information has steadily increased; but this department of library service, while demanding many hours of trained and experienced work, refuses, by its very nature, to express itself in statistics. During the past winter, there has been an unusual interest in the study of public questions, and it has been necessary to devote an entire room to work that was formerly carried on in the stacks and reading-room. Every day telephone calls are received for information on subjects ranging from the value of a fifty cent piece of 1838, to the time schedule of the Southern steamship line; while, more often, borrowers come to the Library in quest of such unrelated matters as pictures of landscapes for painting vaudeville scenery, requirements for entrance into the naval academy at Annapolis, and designs for book-plates or for mortuary monuments as the case may be.

Questions relating to the mechanical arts are numerous, and readers are to be found in the evenings looking over books in the technical and in the fine arts alcoves. Every afternoon, a flood of questions comes to us from the school children, who are detailed by teachers in all parts of the city to gather information at the library.

Literary societies, mission circles, women's clubs, and essay writers of all sorts depend upon us for books and do most of their work at the library, either taking notes at the open shelves or having their books laid aside in the study-room.

Questions come from the Branches also, and temporary collections of books are often sent for the use of our suburban debaters. There is no work in the Library which so taxes our resources as this of furnishing information, and none which results in a greater appreciation on the part of the public.

THE NEW YORK
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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

READING-ROOM

Library Bulletins. The monthly bulletins were continued through the year, a new feature being lists of books on current topics, as follows:

January — The woman question.
February — Education. Dramatic literature.
March — Central Africa. New books in history.
April — Gas and oil engines. New books of travel.
May — Country life. Fiction.
June — Vacation pastimes. Right living. Useful arts.
Sept.–Oct. — Books for hunters. Polar exploration.
November — Mechanical engineering. Short stories.
December — New fiction.

Besides those published in the bulletins, fifty temporary lists illustrated with pictures appropriate to the holidays and anniversaries of the year, were posted on the bulletin board, and attracted much attention from both children and adults.

Book Notices. The postal notices of books on subjects of interest to certain readers were sent out (143 in all) and in some cases received special acknowledgment. Bulletins containing the lists printed during the year were also mailed to such as might be interested.

READING-ROOM

Visitors to the reading-room on Sunday afternoons, from September to May, numbered 2,886, of whom only 287 were women. The average attendance was 60. In the Children's Room, the attendance on Sunday afternoons from January to April was 684, an average of 40.

No attempt was made to keep statistics of daily attendance or of books taken from the shelves. Pamphlets as well as books show the effect of constant wear. Books called for on reading-room slips numbered 735.

A special attraction during the summer, was the "travel literature" furnished by leading railroads and steamship companies. Some of these advertising booklets were beautifully illustrated, and the time-tables and other information contained in them were a convenience to many in planning holiday trips.

PICTURES

An addition to our reference material which should prove useful to teachers and study clubs, is a collection of some 2,000 mounted pictures, classified and filed in boxes, ready for use. There are about 500 colored plates of birds, animals and flowers, some excellent reproductions of paintings of

the various schools, "travel pictures", and many portraits of noted persons. The cost of the pictures, including that of the heavy-weight, gray paper mounts furnished by the Waterbury Paper Box Co., averaged less than three cents apiece.

Pictures of more value which have added greatly to the attractions of the library were bought abroad by Miss Twining during a tour in Europe, and have been framed and placed in position on the walls. The list of these is as follows:

The Last Phase (Napoleon) by James Sant, *R. A.*, portrait painter to Queen Victoria. Born 1820.

William of Nassau, by Anthony Van Dyck. Original in the Hermitage, St. Petersburg.

O'er Snow-clad Pastures, by Joseph Farquharson, *R. A.*, an English artist.

Aesop, by Velasquez; also his Infanta Margarita from the Maids of Honor, and the portrait of Don Balthazar Carlos.

Angel With Viol, by Melozzo da Forli, from painting in the sacristy of St. Peter's, Rome.

Lady With a Muff, by Mme. Vigée LeBrun. Original in Louvre, Paris.

Reproductions in Color. Highland Rovers, by H. R. Hall, a modern Scotch artist.

Nuremburgh, by Auguste Desmoulins, a French artist, contemporary with Rosa Bonheur.

Old Scotch Firs, by John Mac Whirter, *R. A.* Born 1839.

The Milkmaid (La Laitière) by Jean Baptist Greuze. Original in the Louvre.

ACCESSION AND CATALOG DEPARTMENT

The records show the increase in purchases made possible by the city appropriation. In 1900, only 1,433 books were bought for the library, while in 1909, the additions numbered 6,054.

The work of the cataloger has increased, and neither the use of the Library of Congress printed cards, nor the transfer of some details to an assistant prevents it from accumulating. The public catalog, which a few years ago progressed rapidly, still lacks the record of many of the older books, both adult and juvenile; and the work of completing it is carried on with many interruptions. Much revision is required also as new subjects come up and old ones go out of date, but creditable progress has been made, and the catalog is much appreciated and praised by our readers.

Binding. Volumes bound, including periodicals, numbered 2,813. The total cost of binding was $1,250.49, an average

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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

CHILDREN'S ROOM

of 43 cents per volume. Materials used in mending books at the Library cost $14.55.

Gifts. The usual gifts and exchanges were received during the year, and Mr. Charles E. Farnham presented the Library with the valuable musical scores collected by him as leader of the Waterbury orchestra.

Gifts for the Museum were as follows: Doll from Lapland, from Miss Katherine L. Peck; Desert falcon, from Mrs. L. W. Sweet; A snow owl, and a coral snake, from Mr. and Mrs. Nathan W. Greenman.

MISCELLANEOUS WORK

The Newark method of charging books was introduced in the Children's Room during the summer, as the increase in circulation made a more accurate and modern system necessary. The lettering of the five or six thousand permanent book-slips needed was carried on as occasion permitted, through the winter; and, in the spring, several of the regular assistants and some extras were assigned to the work of pasting in book-pockets and dating-slips. The placing of the book-cards in the volumes on the shelves occupied one morning only, and the change to the new system was made without closing the Children's Room or interfering with the circulation of the books. The result was so successful that the new method of charging was provided in the Brooklyn Branch also, and it was decided to make the change gradually through the entire circulating department of the main library.

Lighting. A gradual change was made during the year from the carbon to the tungsten filament lamps, the result being a better as well as a cheaper light. The saving in the bill for six months was over $92.00, although the new lamps were not burned for the full time, but were installed a few at a time. The saving next year should be more than this.

THE STAFF

The unsettled condition which prevailed in 1907 and 1908 was continued in 1909. Two new assistants entered the Library in February and left in September, and others equally inexperienced supplied their places. Four were absent on account of their own illness or that of their relatives, for periods ranging from three to four weeks each. Taking these conditions into account, the work of the Library has progressed well, and the spirit of harmony and helpfulness which has prevailed has smoothed many difficulties.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN SPERRY, *Librarian.*

January 1, 1910.

Statement for the Year 1909

OTIS S. NORTHROP, TREASURER, *in account with*
THE BRONSON LIBRARY FUND.

Debit:	
Balance on hand, January 1, 1909	$ 1,700.73
Received on principal	21,300.00
Received from interest	12,623.04
City of Waterbury, appropriation	5,000.00
Received from Helen Sperry, Librarian (fines and sundries)	1,502.80
	$42,126.57
CREDIT:	
Loans of principal	$20,500.00
Books	5,166.32
Binding books	1,228.79
Binding periodicals	21.70
Binding supplies, $14.55; building repairs, $265.75	280.30
Car tickets	25.15
Catalog supplies	60.03
Cleaning materials	10.00
Express	52.87
Electric light supplies	172.14
Freight	48.75
Fuel	500.00
Foreign books	6.68
Furniture	540.37
Insurance	50.00
Interest rebate	43.75
Lighting	508.54
Miscellaneous supplies	264.57
Pictures	40.70
Printing	167.45
Periodicals	523.76
Pamphlets	4.50
Printing postals	69.25
Postage	32.73
Rent (Waterville)	120.00
Salaries	9,309.29
Stationery, $165.49; supplies, $10.64	176.13
Telephone	69.45
Taxes, $11.04; water rent, $31.69	42.73
Wax	30.00
Branches — Brooklyn, $44.95; Waterville, $8.06; miscellaneous, $72.87	125.88
Cash on hand	1,934.74
	$42,126.57

Examined and found correct, January 21, 1910.

J. S. ELTON,
B. H. FITZPATRICK,
M. SCULLY,
Finance Com.

Expenditures by the Bronson Library as shown by the check book up to and including Dec. 31, 1909.

$20,500.00	Loans of Principal.
5,166.32	Books.
1,228.79	Binding Books.
21.70	Binding Periodicals.
265.75	Building Repairs.
14.55	Binding Supplies.
25.15	Car Tickets.
60.03	Catalogue Supplies.
10.00	Cleaning Materials.
52.87	Express.
172.14	Electric Light Supplies.
48.75	Freight.
500.00	Fuel.
6.68	Foreign Books.
540.37	Furniture.
50.00	Insurance.
508.54	Lighting.
264.57	Miscellaneous Supplies.
40.70	Pictures.
167.45	Printing.
523.76	Periodicals.
4.50	Pamphlets.
69.25	Printing Postals.
32.73	Postage.
120.00	Rent (Waterville).
9,309.29	Salary.
10.64	Supplies.
165.49	Stationery.
69.45	Telephone.
11.04	Taxes.
30.00	Wax.
31.69	Water Rent.
44.95	Brooklyn Branch.
8.06	Waterville Branch.
72.87	Miscellaneous Branch Expenses.
$40,148.08	

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

OF THE

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Forty-Second Annual Report

FOR 1910

SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

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FOR 1910

WATERBURY, CONN.

1911

THE HEMINWAY PRESS

OFFICERS OF
THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY
1910

BOARD OF AGENTS

Martin Scully, 218 Sylvan Ave	Term expires July 4, 1912
James S. Elton, 70 Church St	" " " 4, 1912
H. A. Tullar, 263 Boyden St., Waterville	" " " 4, 1914
Mark L. Sperry, 21 Cooke St.	" " " 4, 1914
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OFFICERS

John O'Neill ..... *President*
Lewis A. Platt ..... *Secretary*
Otis S. Northrop ..... *Treasurer*

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry, *Librarian*
Alice M. Gibby, *Chief Loan Department*
Elizabeth R. Frost, *Reference Librarian*
Edith McH. Steele, *Cataloger*
Eleanor M. Beers, *Children's Librarian*
Myrtie A. Northrop, *Supervisor of Branches*

Louise Katherine Campion — Mrs. Mary C. Carroll
Bessie B. Richardson — Mary J. Fagan
Sarah N. Church — Albina R. LaPrise

Sadie Kennedy, *Brooklyn Branch*
Maud Davis, *Waterville Branch*
Mrs. W. H. Wood, *South Branch*
Curtis N. Hall, *Janitor*

Library hours, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Reading-room open Sundays, 2 to 6 p. m., September to April inclusive.

Report of the Secretary

A careful consideration of the Report of the Librarian for the year 1910 would indicate that the public enjoy the additional advantages offered by the rearrangement of some departments of the Library.

The work of the Branch Libraries seems to be much appreciated as shown by the added circulation of books, and would appear to be of advantage to the school children, as well as of great interest to adults.

In order to maintain the Branch Libraries it was found necessary to ask the City for an additional appropriation, which was granted.

On September 31st, occurred the death of Frederick J. Kingsbury, who has been a member of its Board since its organization in 1867.

Mr. Kingsbury was one of the most faithful members of the Board, giving his time and services for the benefit of the Library as a member of the first committee, as a member of the Board of Agents and as a member of many subcommittees, particularly as a member of the Library Committee or Committee on books, his fine literary and artistic taste being influential in the selection of the many choice and valuable editions and works of art now on the shelves of the Library.

His death was deeply regretted by all those who were associated with him.

At a meeting of the Board of Aldermen, December 12th, 1910, Otis S. Northrop was elected to fill the vacancy made by the death of Mr. Kingsbury.

The Holmes Scholarship in the Sheffield Scientific School was awarded to Philip Davidson. That of the class of 1914 Academic was awarded to Norman Winestine.

LEWIS A. PLATT, *Secretary.*

Report of the Librarian

To the Board of Agents of the Silas Bronson Library:

The report of the work of the Library for the year ending December 31st, 1910 is herewith submitted:

Books on hand January 1st, 1910		81,385
Additions by purchase January—December ...		3,631
Government documents		401
Gifts		124
Periodicals bound		283
		85,824
Books worn out, lost, etc.	1,726	
Missing at inventory 1908—9	283	2,009
Books in main library and branches, Jan. 1, 1911		83,815

Withdrawals from the school libraries and branches are included in the statistics given above.

Of the 1,726 volumes worn out or withdrawn, 1,136 were fiction and 590 non-fiction, the latter about one half children's books. Those reported missing at inventory numbered 113 in the main library and 170 in the children's department. These losses (due to the open shelf system) consist chiefly of fiction, but enough books of permanent value disappear each year to necessitate some restriction of privileges.

Handbooks such as travel guides, mechanical pocketbooks and textbooks of various sorts are being transferred to the Reading-Room; and art books are furnished only in limited quantities and in moderate-priced editions. As a further precaution against loss, rebound books are stamped on the back with the name of the Library. With these limitations, we can continue the open-shelf system, a privilege so enjoyed by the public that it is difficult to withdraw it when once granted.

The additions, not including government documents, are classified as follows:

		Adult Vols.	Juvenile Vols.
0	General works	204	6
1	Philosophy	35	0
2	Religion	61	14
3	Sociology	209	32
4	Language	15	0
5	Science	48	44
6	Useful arts	292	11
7	Fine arts	141	64
8	Literature	273	113
9	History	85	127
91	Travel	100	43
92	Biography	70	65
	Fiction	1298	688
	Total	2831	1207

Novels and children's stories formed 48 per cent of the additions and absorbed 44 per cent of the book fund; but part of this money was refunded through the pay collection of novels, which returned $228.00 on an expenditure of $288.00. The purchase of novels published during the year was limited to 145 new titles, but duplicate copies of the best of these were furnished to satisfy in a measure the temporary demand.

Standard novels bought in Chivers's library bindings numbered 116, their cost ranging from 40 to 60 cents more apiece than that of ordinary editions. These books, however, prove cheaper in the end and give better service to the public, as they remain in constant use and wear out by degrees without rebinding.

Among books assigned to the Reading-Room were the Proceedings of the National Education Association, 1874-98, 20v; Sturgis's History of Architecture; Stickley's Craftsman Homes; Embury's One Hundred Country Houses; Preyer's Art of the Metropolitan Museum; Holmes's Gardens of England; Guldner's Design of Internal-Combustion Engines; Catholic Enclopedia, 9v.; Owen's Nature's Aid to Design; and Bailey's Cyclopedia of Agriculture, 4v. Other important books of reference were Dyer's Compendium of the War of the Rebellion; the Studio, 3v.; Ford's Journals of the Continental Congress, 10v.; Century Dictionary Supplement, 2v.; Stevenson's Works (Thistle edition) 26v.; the Outward Bound edition of Kipling, 28v.; and Specifications and drawings of the U. S. Patent Office, 18v.

READING ROOM

Titles of periodicals received numbered 127. Of these, 19 were daily newspapers (including 1 French, 1 German and 1 Swedish); 7 related to library matters; 2 to religious topics; 3 dealt with social science; 28 with science and useful arts; 9 with fine arts; and 5 with history and genealogy. The remaining 51 were of general interest. Extra copies of the American Magazine, Atlantic, Century, Delineator, Everybody's, Harper's Monthly, McClure's Munsey, Outlook, St. Nicholas, Scribner's, and World's Work were issued for home reading.

Foreign books numbered 181 volumes, of which 89 were Italian; 18 Bohemian; 71 Polish; 2 German; and 1 French. The special collection of history and genealogy received 9 additions, making a total of 2,159 volumes in that department.

Pamphlets. Besides books, thousands of pamphlets were received and examined, and those of special interest were displayed in the Reading-Room and some of them catalogued. All pamphlets received are finally classified on the shelves according to the logical divisions of the Dewey system, and form a valuable part of our reference material.

The government publications relating to the Care of Food, and other domestic topics were much used, as well as those dealing with Bees, Poultry, Care of Milk, and other agricultural topics. The publications of the U. S. Fuel-Testing Plant and those relating to Industrial Alcohol, the President's messages; the Reports of the Bureau of American Republics; these and many others were used in the Library or issued for home reading. The catologs and bulletins of the leading technical schools, art institutes and universities formed a popular part of the collection.

Summary. The record of the year shows purchases of books amounting to 3,631 volumes; but, because of the wearing out or withdrawal of 2,009 volumes, there was a net increase of only 1,631 books for the maintenance of the main library and its 20 distributing stations.

It is obvious that the increase of $2,500 in the city appropriation for the coming year is entirely inadequate to provide for the extension of the work in new directions.

CIRCULATION

The circulation including that of the school libraries and the three branches was 208, 624, a decrease of 3,181 from the

preceding year. The falling off in the main library was 9,886v., and in the school libraries, 7,446; but the increase in other parts of the library system brought the total nearly up to that of last year's issue of books.

Most American libraries have within two years reported a decline in the home reading of books, but so great an increase in their use in the library building that, as a matter of accommodation, a rearrangement of the work into departments has become necessary. The Applied Science Reference Room, the Fine Arts Room with its lending collection of pictures, and the Business Men's Branch are among the conveniences now offered by progressive libraries, the efficiency of each department being provided for by trained assistants and hours of opening adapted to its special constituency.

The Bronson Library has made a beginning in the same direction with a Picture Collection which, though small, is much used by teachers and others; an information Desk which is the nucleus of a Reference Department; and the Study Room, already so crowded that a classification of its readers and more space for them is needed. Meanwhile, the home reading of books tends to become more and more a matter of entertainment, and varies in quantity according to its competition with moving pictures, vaudeville shows and other popular amusements.

As to the general character of our circulation, the most popular class with adult readers, next to Fiction and General Literature, was that of Useful Arts and its allied class of Fine Arts, both of which have had a threefold increase of circulation since 1902. These books, however, are more used in the building than out of it, the alcoves containing them being often inconveniently crowded, so that an Applied Science Room with open shelves, reading tables and other conveniences is imperatively needed.

Fiction formed about 68 per cent of the circulation in the Children's Room and nearly 72 per cent (not including foreign books) in the adult department of the main Library. The issue of books in foreign languages was divided as follows: Bohemian, 191; French, 1,304; German, 1,053; Italian, 936; Polish, 303; Swedish, 103; Yiddish, 123; total, 3,963, being an increase since last year of 230 volumes.

Divided by months, the year's circulation as compared with that of the year preceding was as follows:

READING-ROOM

	1909	1910
January	15,008	12,849
February	14,948	12,728
March	16,301	13,553
April	12,835	12,122
May	12,321	11,270
June	11,368	11,062
July	10,685	10,114
August	9,861	10,545
September	10,153	10,186
October	11,644	11,571
November	12,847	11,961
December	11,554	11,688
	149,535	139,649
School libraries	43,578	36,132
Waterville Branch	7,399	8,180
South Branch	3,018	3,324
Brooklyn Branch	8,275	21,339
	211,805	208,624

Circulation by classes in main library, January—December, 1910:

	Adult	Per cent	Juvenile	Per cent
General works	7,506	7.56	217	.59
Philosophy	741	.76	37	.11
Religion	871	.88	383	1.05
Sociology	1,367	1.38	535	1.47
Language	412	.41	5	.01
Science	1,779	1.79	1,205	3.31
Useful arts	2,800	2.82	363	1.00
Fine arts	2,383	2.40	1,268	3.47
Literature	4,408	4.34	1,562	4.29
Travel	2,112	2.13	1,819	4.99
Biography	1,598	1.61	1,794	4.93
History	2,162	2.18	2,542	6.98
Fiction	71,205	71.74	24,702	67.80
	99,254	100.00	36,432	100.00

The main library was open for the circulation of books 304 days.

Average per month, 11,637 volumes. Average per day, 459. The largest monthly circulation was that of March (13,553 volumes), and the largest day was November 5th, when 1056 volumes were issued.

ed to adult readers forming only 15 per cent; but this is to be expected until funds permit us to have a general reading-room and a circulating department free from the intrusion of restless young folk.

Taking the year through, the circulation of the three Branches was 14,151 volumes more than in 1909, with an increase in miscellaneous expenses of $224.13. The percentage of fiction issued was 54 in Brooklyn, 70 at the South Branch and 83 in Waterville; the excess in Waterville being partly due to the required reading of standard fiction in the High School course.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The improvement of the library service by the establishment of an information desk near the entrance to the Loan Department has been especially appreciated by strangers. Questions requiring research are referred to this desk where the librarian in charge can give the time needed for an intelligent performance of the work. During the three months from October to December inclusive, 433 questions were referred to this department. With the addition of the care and classification of government documents and pamphlets, and the editing of the monthly bulletin, the time of the reference assistant is fully occupied.

The Study Room has proved a great convenience; in fact, the work of the Library in its present form could not be carried on without it as the shelves and tables available on the ground floor for ordinary reserves are in constant use.

A collection of books for the society of Boy Scouts has been placed in the lobby of the Library and is much read in the building.

An exact account of volumes provided for special use has not been kept, but a count taken on one of the busy days of the winter showed 232 books laid aside on request, for periods ranging from two or three days to several weeks.

HOLIDAY EXHIBITION

Much attention has been paid at the Library to the selection of children's books, and a reference collection of these has been formed, small as yet, but choice in quality, and representing the best-loved authors. About 150 of these books were exhibited in the Art Room for a week or two before Christmas, and all adults interested in children's reading were invited to consult with the Children's Librarian in preparing lists for purchase through the local booksellers. There were picture books for young children, fairy

CHILDREN'S ROOM

tales, poetry, books of travel and standard favorites like "Alice in Wonderland," Stevenson's "Child's Garden," "Robinson Crusoe" and "Arabian Nights"—all in the prettiest editions procurable. The exhibition pleased those who saw it; and, since its withdrawal from the Art Room, has been inquired for and shown to others interested.

Our special lending collection of "Books for Story-tellers" has also attracted attention from teachers and mothers, so that the library has a growing reputation as a source of information concerning children's reading.

ACCESSION AND CATALOG DEPARTMENT

Card Catalog. The cataloguing of accessions has been continued to date, and progress has been made in printing cards for some older books not hitherto represented in the alphabet. An innovation of practical value is the inclusion of short reference lists for debaters, notes explaining titles of doubtful meaning, and references to pamphlets giving more recent information than books. 200 pamphlets received during the year have been entered in the catalog under the subjects treated.

Bulletins. The monthly bulletins were continued through the year and included lists on current topics as follows:

January—City administration. Water supply. Sanitation. Roads and pavements. Municipal improvement. Citizenship.

February—Social betterment. Playgrounds. The schools.

March—Italian books. Country life. Farming. Farm animals. Poultry.

April—The country house. The garden. Children's gardens. Landscape gardening.

May—European travel: Great Britain, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, and Spain.

June—Best books of 1909.

July—Colleges and universities. New fiction.

October—English for foreigners. Best novels of 1909.

November—Missions: Africa, The East, Pacific Islands.

December—Dr. Grenfell and his work. Missions: Central and South America, Our own land. Books for mothers, Occupations and amusements for children.

Besides those published in the bulletins, 23 temporary lists illustrated with pictures appropriate to the holidays and anniversaries of the year were posted on the Bulletin Board and attracted much attention from both children and adults.

Book Notices. The postal notices of books on subjects of interest to certain readers were sent out (132 in all) and in some cases received special acknowledgment. Bulletins containing the lists printed during the year were also mailed to such as might be interested.

READING-ROOM

Visitors to the Reading-Room on Sunday afternoons, from September to May inclusive, numbered 1661. Average attendance, 46. The attendance in the Children's Room on Sunday afternoon was 1184, an average of 30. Sunday attendance in the main Reading-Room was smallest in September, averaging not more than 25 during the 4 hours of opening; and, in the Children's Room also, March was a month of small attendance.

PICTURES

Our collection of mounted pictures (about 2000) was considerably used, the chief demand being for colored pictures of birds and flowers and for reproductions of noted paintings to be used by teachers and study clubs. A copy of Mesdag's painting, **Holland Coast Fishing Boats,** was purchased of the Emery School Art Co. of Boston, for the decoration of our Reading-Room. The original is in the Municipal Museum at The Hague.

Gifts. The usual exchange of reports and bulletins with other libraries was continued, and 124 gifts of books were received. Other gifts were "Map of Waterbury, 1909" from M. A. J. Patton, and two finely mounted specimens of New England quail and woodcock from the estate of Elliott Somers.

The Bohemian Society of Waterbury collected $37.77 from its members and gave the money to the Library to be spent for books, both in English and in Bohemian, relating to the history of their country.

A collection of butterflies and moths purchased from the Denton Brothers of Wellesley, Mass. with others raised by the pupils of the Gerard School of this city was presented to the Museum by the Misses Charlotte B. and Helen Merriman, and their sister, Mrs. F. E. Castle. A detailed account of the collection was published in the local newspapers on February 21st and is preserved in the Library Records. The purchase price was $75.00.

Some interesting specimens presented by the Naturalist Society are grouped with the Merriman collection in a glass case specially designed for their exhibition.

MISCELLANEOUS WORK

The Newark method of charging books which was introduced into the Children's Room and the Branches last year, has been applied also to the Circulating Department of the main Library. The lettering of thousands of book slips and the pasting of an equal number of book-pockets and dating slips have been carried on in the intervals of work at the Loan Desk and will probably be finished during the coming year. Meanwhile, the number of books to be charged daily by the old system still averages about fifty, a source of inconvenience to the assistants, which will soon be eliminated.

Lighting. The change from carbon filament to tungsten lamps has proved a real economy; for, although we are burning many more lights because of the use of the rooms on the second floor,the cost of the current this last year was 242 dollars less than in 1908. An additional expense of $189.00 was incurred by the substitution of groups of ceiling lamps with holophane reflectors for the old-fashioned chandeliers with their dazzling, low-hanging lights; but the result is a diffused illumination reaching every corner and much pleasanter to the eye than the former arrangement.

THE STAFF

There were no cases of prolonged illness and no resignations during the year. Miss Sarah N. Church was granted a year's leave of absence, and is attending the Training School for Children's Librarians at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburg. This school, endowed by Andrew Carnegie, unites a theoretical training with practical work in eight well equipped children's libraries in different parts of Pittsburgh.

To provide for the growth of our Reference Department, Miss Elizabeth R. Frost, graduate of Smith College and of the Library Training School at Albany, was engaged and began work in October. With these changes in the direction of higher efficiency, and with the continuation of the present spirit of enthusiasm on the part of the members of the staff, we feel justified in looking forward to a substantial growth in the helpfulness of the Library during this coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN SPERRY, Librarian.

January 1st, 1911.

Statement for the Year 1910

OTIS S. NORTHROP, TREASURER, *in account with*

THE BRONSON LIBRARY FUND.

DEBIT:

Balance on hand, January 1, 1910	$1,934.74
Received on principal	12,500.00
Received from interest	10,560.00
City of Waterbury Appropriation	5,000.00
Received from Helen Sperry, Librarian, (fines, etc.)	1,331.84
	$31,326.58

CREDIT:

Books	$3,415.07	
Foreign books	158.26	
Binding books	1,476.54	
Building repairs	335.15	
Binding supplies	114.15	
Catalogues	72.95	
Car tickets	29.00	
Express and freight	94.92	
Electric light supplies and repairs	200.47	
Furniture	214.90	
Fuel	455.00	
Janitor's assistant	286.63	
Lighting	443.73	
Miscellaneous accounts	316.65	
Periodicals	626.82	
Postage and stationery	185.60	
Pictures	18.00	
Printing	133.75	
Salary	9,172.47	
Telephone	124.20	
Water rent	14.95	
Wax	30.00	
Loans of principal	12,000.00	$29,919.21

Waterville Branch

Fuel	2.97	
Janitor	48.10	
Lighting	32.97	
Miscellaneous	3.40	
Rent	120.00	
Salary	262.18	
Telephone	19.75	489.37

Brooklyn Branch

Building repairs	15.52	
Fuel	15.75	
Furniture	22.00	
Janitor	57.20	
Lighting	25.68	
Miscellaneous supplies	3.97	
Salary	358.70	498.82

South Branch

Fuel	4.26	
Janitor	12.00	
Lighting	5.97	
Miscellaneous	4.40	
Rent	36.00	
Salary	100.60	163.23
		$31,070.63
Balance on hand, Jan. 1, 1911		255.95
		$31,326.58

Examined and found correct, January 12, 1911.

J. S. Elton,
Martin Scully,
B. H. Fitzpatrick,
Finance Committee.

Expenditures of the Bronson Library during the year 1910.

Books	$3,415.07	
Foreign books	158.26	
Binding Books	1,476.54	
Building repairs	335.15	
Binding supplies	114.15	
Catalogues	72.95	
Car tickets	29.00	
Express and freight	94.92	
Electric light supplies and repairs	200.47	
Furniture	214.90	
Fuel	455.00	
Janitor and assistants	233.75	
Special	52.88	
Lighting	443.73	
Miscellaneous accounts	316.65	
Periodicals	626.82	
Postage and stationery	185.60	
Pictures	18.00	
Printing	133.75	
Salary	9,172.47	
Telephone	124.20	
Water rent	14.95	
Wax	30.00	
Loans of principal	12,000.00	$29,919.21

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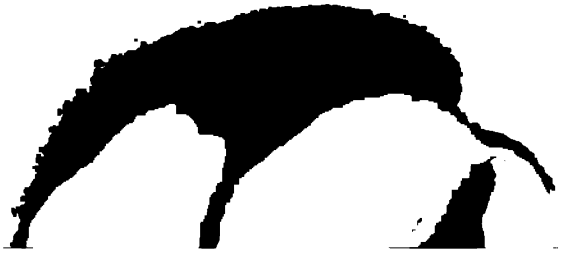

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Alice M. Gibby, *Chief, Loan Department*
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James S. Elton, 70 Church St.	"	"	"	4, 1924

OFFICERS

John O'Neill ..... *President*
Lewis A. Platt ..... *Secretary*
Otis S. Northrop ..... *Treasurer*

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry, *Librarian*
Alice M. Gibby, *Chief, Loan Department*
Elizabeth R. Frost, *Reference Librarian*
Edith McH. Steele, *Cataloger*
Sarah N. Church, *Children's Librarian*
Myrtie A. Northrop, *Supervisor of Branches*

Eleanor N. Beers — Mrs. Mary C. Carroll
Louise Katherine Campion — Mary J. Fagan
Bessie B. Richardson — Albina R. LaPrise

Sadie Kennedy, *Brooklyn Branch*
Curtis N. Hall, *Janitor*

Library hours, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Reading-room open Sundays, 2 to 6 p. m., September to April inclusive.

Report of the Secretary.

WATERBURY, CONN., June 17, 1912.

A study of the report of the Librarian shows the constant widening of the scope of the work done in the Institution.

The constant efforts which are being made to interest the public in general reading and particularly in good reading are not without effect.

It will be noted that the circulation is nearly three times the number of books in the Library and, as a large proportion of the books are never drawn out, that those which are taken are in very active use. This activity diminishes the expense of circulation per volume but increases the total expense of conducting the Library, so that at the present time the cost far exceeds the income from the endowment. The money for this increased cost is now supplied from the general funds of the City of Waterbury and it would seem that it would be necessary to continue to ask for funds from this source, if the Library is to continue its endeavor to supply the needs of the public.

The Committee appointed to award the Holmes Scholarship appointed John M. Brophy to the scholarship in the class of 1915 Academic.

LEWIS A. PLATT, *Secretary.*

Report of the Librarian

To the Board of Agents of the Bronson Library:

The report of the work of the Library for the year ending December 31st, 1911 is herewith submitted:

Books on hand Jan. 1st, 1911		83,815
Additions by purchase	4329	
By gift	119	
Periodicals bound	141	
Government documents	276	4,865
Total		88,680
Books worn out, lost, etc.: adult	701	
Children's Room	992	
School libraries	584	
Missing at inventory, 1910	273	
From School libraries	52	2,601
Books in main Library and branches, Jan. 1, 1912		86,079

Net gain for year, 2,264 volumes.

Of the 2,601 volumes worn out, lost, etc., 838 were adult and 1,763 (60 per cent.) juvenile, although the proportion of children's books circulated, including the school libraries, was only 42 per cent. Of the number withdrawn from all departments, 1,692 volumes were fiction and 909 non-fiction; all but 52 of the latter being juvenile. Losses due to the open-shelf system were also in larger proportion in the Children's Room, but there is encouragement in the fact that with an increase of 10,000 in the circulation from the Children's Room, the number of books missing at inventory was 35 less than last year. An examination of the list of volumes missing from the adult department, shows that only 37 out of 138 were non-fiction, and that these latter being of a sort convenient to keep at home for reference, were especially tempting. Elwell on Bridge, Munro's Pocket-book of Electrical Rules, and Richey's Handbook

of Construction are typical examples. Such books when replaced are generally assigned to the Reference Department of the Library.

The additions, not including government documents, were classified as follows:

	Adult Vols.	Juvenile Vols.
General works	137	0
Philosophy	19	0
Religion	45	31
Sociology	125	61
Language	27	1
Science	55	74
Useful arts	155	30
Fine arts	120	83
Literature	269	122
Travel	99	165
Biography	116	59
History	53	264
Fiction	1187	1292
	2407	2182

Novels and children's stories formed 57 per cent. of the additions and absorbed 63 per cent. of the book fund, but part of this ($293.00) was restored through the pay collection of novels.

Standard novels bought in special library bindings numbered 349, experience having proved that the extra cost is balanced by greater durability.

Titles of periodicals received numbered 124. Of these, 19 were daily newspapers (including 2 French, 1 German, and 1 Swedish); 7 related to bibliography and library matters; 6 to philosophical and religious topics; 8 dealt with social and educational subjects; 10 with fine arts; 24 with science and useful arts; and 6 with history and genealogy. The remaining 44 were of general interest.

Extra copies of the American Magazine, Atlantic, Century, Delineator, Everybody's, Harper's Monthly, McClure's, Munsey, Outlook, St. Nicholas, Scribner's, and World's Work were issued for home reading.

Foreign books added during the year numbered 82 volumes, of which 80 were Yiddish, 1 German and 1 French. The special collection of local history and genealogy received 8 additions, making a total of 2,167 volumes in that department.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

READING ROOM

The most important work of reference assigned to the Reading-Room was the new *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 29 volumes, but there were also 21 volumes of magazines, bringing the various series to date, and numerous smaller works of reference, such as *The Statesman's Yearbook*, *Whitaker's Almanac*, *The Connecticut Register*, *Who's Who?* both English and American, and various European guide books. *Wilson's Bungalow Book* and *Comstock's Garages and Motor-Boats* were much appreciated, and *Beebe's Log of the Sun* delighted nature lovers by its beautiful illustrations. Other books of reference were *Howe's Postage Stamps of Canada; Dennis's World Atlas of Missions; McClellan's Historic Dress in America;* the *Agricultural Census of Argentina*, 6v. and bound volumes of *Specifications* and *Drawings* of *the U. S. Patent Office.*

Interesting books for the Art Department were Mrs. Barrington's *Life, Letters and Work of Frederic Leighton*, 2v.; *Chippendale's Furniture Designs;* The *Studio Year Book*, 1910; *Bartlett's Pen and Ink Drawing, Brower's Morris Dances*, 2v.: *Holme's Peasant Art in Sweden, Lapland and Iceland; Johnston's Manuscript and Inscription Letters; Solomon's Practice of Oil Painting; Singleton's Art of the Belgian Galleries;* and two new volumes of the *Craftsman.*

CIRCULATION

The circulation, including that of the school libraries and the three branches, was 226,784, including an increase of 375 volumes in the issues of the South Branch, of 2,045 at Waterville and of 20,000 at the main Library. At the Brooklyn Branch, however, there was a decrease of 3,310; and, in the school libraries, of 497 volumes, which reduced the net gain for the year to 18,160 volumes.

As a matter of fact, the demand for books is rapidly increasing in all parts of the city but the small growth in the size of our collection (less than 3,000 volumes per year) does not provide for a simultaneous advance along our various lines of work. Nevertheless, this has been a record year, the previous high mark (218,699 volumes issued) being in 1908, the year of industrial depression.

Divided by months, the year's circulation as compared with that of the year preceding was as follows:

	1910	1911
January	12,849	13,469
February	12,728	13,142
March	13,553	15,097
April	12,122	12,914
May	11,270	11,523
June	11,062	11,477
July	10,114	11,845
August	10,545	12,651
September	10,186	12,182
October	11,571	14,797
November	11,961	15,744
December	11,688	14,355
	139,649	159,196
School Libraries	36,132	35,635
Waterville Branch	8,180	10,225
South Branch	3,324	3,699
Brooklyn Branch	21,339	18,029
	208,624	226,784

Circulation by classes in main library, January—December, 1911:

	Adult	Per cent.	Juvenile	Per cent
General works	6,694	5.91	285	.62
Philosophy	789	.70	37	.08
Religion	881	.78	546	1.19
Sociology	1,592	1.41	996	2.17
Language	488	.43	12	.03
Science	1,927	1.70	1,223	2.66
Useful arts	3,000	2.65	425	.92
Fine arts	2,609	2.31	1,870	4.07
Literature	4,900	4.33	1,924	4.18
Travel	2,500	2.21	2,297	4.99
Biography	1,667	1.47	1,851	4.02
History	1,920	1.70	2,806	8.27
Fiction	79,893	70.58	30,734	66.80
Foreign books	4,320	3.82		
	113,190	100.00	46,006	100.00

The main library was open for the circulation of books 304 days.

Average per month, 13,266 volumes. Average per day,

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

READING ROOM

524. The largest monthly circulation was that of November (15,744 volumes) and the largest day was February 18th, when 1,043 volumes were issued.

SPECIAL SHELVES

Experiments in calling attention to certain classes of books were carried on in the main library by means of collections on timely topics arranged for convenient examination by readers. Special shelves were assigned to the books required in the High School reading courses, the collection of One Hundred of the Best Novels was made attractive by the substitution of clean for soiled copies, the Boy Scouts had a department of their own, and the New Book shelves displayed current additions in departments other than fiction. The "Pay Copy" shelves of fiction attracted many patrons; also the section of classified novels which satisfied another kind of demand. These last were arranged under such designations as *Ghost Tales, Stories of Country and Outdoor Life* (including New England stories), *Summer Reading, Army Life, Novels of the South, The Civil War,* and *Life in Canada.* Each subject took its turn on the special fiction shelves remaining for periods of from two weeks to two months according to its popularity. As for detective stories, the typewritten lists displayed in the book-room were sufficient to keep these highly popular volumes in circulation.

So far, our experience with the open-shelf system shows that a circulation collection as large as ours (about 30,000 volumes) needs many aids and guides for the bewildered reader, and that an Open-Shelf room containing a few thousand volumes of popular literature would probably be more convenient for the public and more in harmony with the growing tendency to divide libraries into departments, each with its special constituency.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Our first school libraries were started in the fall of 1903 when 1,110 volumes were divided among the grades above the third in the Barnard, Washington and Walsh schools. Since then, the work has been extended as far as the funds of the Library would permit so that fifteen schoolhouses are now supplied with books for home reading during eight months of the year.

That the children enjoy this privilege is shown by the fact that although each of these little libraries is open less than forty hours in the year, their combined circulation (35,635 vols.) nearly equals that of the Children's Room in

the main Library which is open thirty hours in the week.

Taking into account the issues of the Brooklyn Branch, the schools and the main Library, the total number of children's books given out during the year was 97,083 volumes or 27,407 columes more than the entire circulation of the Library a few years ago.

Children are indeed eager readers and are so susceptible to suggestion that the wise direction of this natural taste is highly important. We are fortunate therefore in having on our staff an assistant who, after a year of hard study at the Pittsburg Training School for Children's Librarians, has returned to us well equipped for this work. Among the improvements planned for the coming year are the forming of reading clubs among the children, and the development of the story-hour, which, at the Brooklyn Branch, has already had an attendance of 325 children in one afternoon. Systematic visits to the schools are to be made with the object of securing closer co-operation with the teachers, and as a further move in this direction, a reference collection of children's books will be kept at the main Library as an aid to teachers in determining the choice of books for the school libraries to be placed in their charge.

With the introduction of these more scientific methods, the coming year should show a substantial improvement in the Children's Department.

CIRCULATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES

October 1910—June 1911.

	Vols. in School	Circulation
Bishop Street	366	4,001
Bucks Hill	127	294
Bunker Hill	314	1,702
Chapel Street	215	673
East Farms	76	126
Hopeville	227	854
Mill Plain	236	942
Lincoln	333	2,049
Mulcahy	515	2,776
Park Road	149	856
Russell	327	2,179
Town Plot	289	1,706
Washington	564	5,975
Waterville	486	2,422
Webster	1,012	8,057
Neighborhood Centre	39	134
Waterbury Industrial	246	889
Total	5,521	35,635

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

CHILDREN'S ROOM

Because of the remodeling of the building, no books were sent to the Merriman School, a fact which accounts for a slight decrease (497 volumes) in the circulation of the School Libraries during the past year.

THE CATALOG

Besides the ordinary work of cataloguing new books, progress has been made in printing cards for some volumes not hitherto listed, and 163 pamphlets received during the year, have been entered in the catalog under the subjects treated.

No printed catalogs of any large class have been published, as the demand for these does not justify the expense; but, for the satisfaction of novel readers, 200 copies of a catalog of standard fiction published by an enterprising firm in Minneapolis were purchased and either lent to readers or sold at a nominal price.

BINDING

Although the use of the Library, as shown by statistics, increased considerably during the year, the amount expended in rebinding books was about $400 less than in 1910. This was due partly to the fact that the money expended in previous years had bettered the average condition of the Library, and partly to the efficiency of our new method of reinforcing books with Gaylord's double-stitched binder. Our " book hospital" has been a scene of constant activity receiving many hundreds of limp and broken-backed volumes and sending them out again restored to strength and usefulness.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The work of this department requiring patience, unselfishness and tact, as well as training in research work, has been admirably performed, and the questions submitted have increased in seriousness as well as number. It is difficult to give by statistics an adequate idea of the work, but the fact that 1,831 questions on widely differing subjects, including 40 debates, were referred to the reference librarian for special material, may give some idea of what is demanded by the public. The larger the Library, the more difficult it is for the ordinary student to trace out the material needed for his work, and some personal guidance in the use of the card catalog and the numberless bibliographies and books of reference is eagerly welcomed.

Space in the Study Room has already proved insufficient to accommodate readers, and an annex has been established in the Patent Room, where people can work in comparative quiet. 424 volumes in all were reserved on these Study Room tables, during the year, for periods ranging from one day to several weeks.

Bulletins. The monthly bulletins were continued, and included lists on current topics as follows:

The Art of Living, including the sub-topics, Manners and Morals; The Healthful Life; Housekeeping; Cookery; and Camp Cooking. Four numbers were devoted to Books about Ireland, and there was a short list entitled English for Foreigners, compiled in response to a demand on the part of night-school teachers. The August bulletin contained a list of new fiction, Books for Business Men, and The Woman Question. In September, a list of Italian books in the Library was published, and the rest of the year was devoted to a catalog of technical books in the Library under the topics: Books for Metal Workers; Shop Practice and Machine Tools; and Fuels, Furnaces and Boilers.

Besides those published in the monthly bulletin, 20 temporary lists appropriate to the holidays and anniversaries of the year were posted on the Bulletin Board and attracted much attention from both children and adults.

Book Notices. The postal notices of books of interest to certain readers were sent out (192 in all) and in some cases received special acknowledgment. Bulletins containing the lists printed during the year were also mailed to such as might be interested.

The daily newspapers printed many items sent from the Library, and also furnished interesting articles about our work, written by their own reporters.

HOLIDAY EXHIBITION

The Christmas exhibit of literature for children was repeated this year with pleasing results. About 300 attractively bound volumes were placed in the Art Room and announcements were sent to the newspapers and to parents and others interested in juvenile reading. The publishers' prices were written inside the front covers, and the books were arranged in groups beginning with "picture-books" and carrying the divisions through the various ages up to fifteen years. Pads and pencils were provided and grateful Christmas shoppers appreciated the quiet

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

STORY HOUR AT THE BROOKLYN BRANCH

of a place where they might sit and examine bindings, compare prices, etc. at their leisure, with the added comfort of realizing that the elimination of poor material had already been accomplished for them.

As the Library does not undertake any selling, the only effect on the local booksellers would be a rise in the quality of the holiday books demanded.

READING-ROOM

Visitors to the Reading-Room on Sunday afternoons from September to April inclusive, numbered 1,809, an average of 51. Attendance in the Children's Room on Sunday afternoons was 1,986, an average of 56. Sunday attendance in the main Reading-Room was smallest in September, averaging not more than 25 during the four hours of opening, and in the Children's Room not more than 13.

THE STAFF

Mary C. Fay resigned during the year, and was married April 25th, her place being supplied by Albina R. LaPrise.

The standard of health was somewhat lower than usual, the loss to the Library through various illnesses amounting to the time of one assistant for two months.

Miss Sarah N. Church who was given a year's leave of absence to attend the Training School for Children's Librarians at Pittsburg finished her course with honor, and returned to Waterbury eager to apply the best modern methods in the work with Waterbury children.

On the whole, the work of the Library shows a definite advance both in amount and quality, and even better results may be hoped for in the year before us.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN SPERRY, Librarian.

January 1st, 1912.

Statement for the Year 1911.

OTIS S. NORTHROP, TREASURER, *in account with*
THE BRONSON LIBRARY FUND.

DEBIT:

Balance on hand January 1st, 1911	$ 255.95
Received on principal $24,500, Leavenworth bequest $10,000	34,500.00
Received from interest	11,928.60
Received from City of Waterbury appropriation	7,500.00
Received from Helen Sperry, Librarian, (Fines, etc.)	1,443.48
	$55,628.03

CREDIT:

Books	$ 3,588.01	
Binding books and periodicals	1,121.45	
Binding supplies	86.15	
Building repairs	300.47	
Catalogues	59.69	
Electric Light repairs	65.65	
Express	49.77	
Freight	42.40	
Furniture	244.34	
Foreign books	34.16	
Insurance	982.50	
Lighting	515.01	
Miscellaneous expense	291.44	
Miscellaneous supplies	193.39	
Pictures	12.50	
Printing	138.63	
Periodicals	558.37	
Stationery	117.18	
Salaries	10,527.54	
Telephone	58.08	
Taxes	8.83	
Water taxes	13.57	
Wax	30.00	
Fuel	490.00	
Loans of principal	34,300.00	$53,829.13

Waterville Branch

Expense	$ 58.43	
Furniture	2.40	
Lighting	28.21	
Rent	120.00	
Salaries	261.38	
Telephone	27.05	$497.47

Brooklyn Branch

Building repairs	$ 5.50	
Expense	47.15	
Fuel	7.00	
Furniture	10.40	
Lighting	22.41	
Pictures	.60	
Repairs	19.11	
Salaries	413.76	$525.93

South Branch

Expense	$ 24.92	
Rent	36.00	
Salary	81.90	$142.82
Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1912		$632.68
		$55,628.03

Examined and found correct, January 12, 1912.

J. S. ELTON,
B. H. FITZPATRICK,
MARTIN SCULLY,
Finance Committee.

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

OF THE

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Forty-Fourth Annual Report

FOR 1912

WATERBURY, CONN.
1913

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

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OF THE

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Forty-Fourth Annual Report

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WATERBURY, CONN.
1913

The Hemingway Press

OFFICERS OF

THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

1912

BOARD OF AGENTS

H. A. Tullar, 263 Boyden St., Waterville,	Term	expires	July	4, 1914
Mark L. Sperry, 21 Cooke St.	"	"	"	4, 1914
James E. Russell, 34 Chestnut Ave.	"	"	"	4, 1916
Otis S. Northrop, 51 Church St.	"	"	"	4, 1916
John O'Neill, 131 Cooke St.	"	"	"	4, 1918
Terrence F. Carmody, 2 Chestnut Ave...	"	"	"	4, 1918
Francis P. Guilfoile, 246 Robbins St. ...	"	"	"	4, 1920
John P. Kellogg, 144 Buckingham St. ..	"	"	"	4, 1920
Bernard H. Fitzpatrick, 201 Willow St...	"	"	"	4, 1922
Lewis A. Platt, 36 Buckingham St.	"	"	"	4, 1922
Martin Scully, 218 Sylvan Ave.	"	"	"	4, 1924
James S. Elton, 70 Church St.	"	"	"	4, 1924

OFFICERS

John O'Neill ..... *President*
Lewis A. Platt ..... *Secretary*
Otis S. Northrop ..... *Treasurer*

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry, *Librarian*
Alice M. Gibby, *Chief, Loan Department*
Elizabeth R. Frost, *Reference Librarian*
Edith McH. Steele, *Cataloger*
Sarah N. Church, *Children's Librarian*
Myrtie A. Northrop, *Supervisor of Branches*

Eleanor N. Beers — Mrs. Mary C. Carroll
Louise Katharine Campion — Mary J. Fagan
Bessie B. Richardson — Albina R. LaPrise

Sadie Kennedy, *Brooklyn Branch*
Curtis N. Hall, *Janitor*

Library hours, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Reading-room open Sundays, 2 to 6 p. m., September to April inclusive.

Report of the Secretary

WATERBURY, CONN., June 9, 1913.

With no radical changes in the method of conducting the Library, the report of the Librarian, herewith submitted, shows that constant progress is being made in the use of facilities afforded by it.

The circulation is constantly increasing in the Main Building and the demand for Branch Libraries is more than keeping pace with the growth of the city.

The Holmes Scholarship for the class of 1916 was divided between Edward G. Scovill and Harold S. Gulliver.

LEWIS A. PLATT, *Secretary.*

Report of the Librarian

To the Board of Agents of the Bronson Library:

The report of the work of the Library for the year ending December 31st, 1912, is herewith submitted:

Books on hand Jan. 1st, 1912		86,079
Additions by purchase	5,396	
By gift	78	
Periodicals bound	221	
Government documents	380	6,075
Total		92,154
Books worn out, lost, etc., adult	1,007	
Children's Room	1,407	
School libraries	728	
Missing at inventory, 1911	320	3,462
(Adult, 119; juvenile, 201.)		
Books in Main Library and Branches, Jan. 1, 1913		88,692

The additions, not including government documents and periodicals bound, were classified as follows:

	Adult Vols.	Juvenile Vols.
General works	30	40
Philosophy	27	0
Religion	33	68
Sociology	137	74
Language	32	0
Science	51	148
Useful arts	183	103
Fine arts	146	204
Literature	148	266
Travel	62	390
Biography	91	122
History	64	381
Fiction	947	1,727
	1,951	3,523

The statistics show that more books were worn out by children than by adults, and 1,515 volumes more were bought for the children's department. As, however, chil-

dren's books are comparatively cheap, the actual money expended was about equally divided between the two classes. The number of books rebound was 3,487, of which 2,171 were adult and 1,316 juvenile.

The pay collection of fiction was appreciated as usual, the receipts from it ($272.65) nearly covering the cost of the books, which was $310.94. The pay shelves of fiction have proved useful as a trying-out place for new novels. If the books prove satisfactory in literary quality and popularity, they are duplicated for the free shelves. Later the pay copies also are transferred to the circulating department in order to make way for later publications; the pay collection being thus kept fresh and attractive, and according to statements of our readers, more interesting than the booksellers' circulating libraries.

Special collections. The Library has a good and growing collection of books and pamphlets relating to municipal affairs, of which an annotated list has been sent to the principal city officials. The needs of the city are kept carefully in mind by the librarian, and every new subject of interest is represented at the library by the latest treatises, and by such reports of work in other cities as occasion demands.

The Library is noted for its fine collection of books relating to local history and genealogy, numbering 2,173 volumes, and for many rare volumes of Americana. In natural history it is not excelled by any library of its size in the state. It has also many valuable art books, and a circulating collection of pictures (about 10,000 in number) the latter being freely used by teachers in the public schools.

Orchestral scores. There is a small but carefully selected collection of instrumental and vocal music, and a collection of orchestral scores, the gift of Mr. Charles W. Farnham, one of our leading musicians.

CIRCULATION

The circulation, including that of the school libraries and branches was 228,354 volumes, including an increase of 9,202 at the main Library, and of 1,270 at the Waterville Branch. The South Branch was discontinued as the issue of books was not enough to warrant the expense of maintenance, and there was a decrease of 2,565 in the issues of the Brooklyn Branch. Owing to the dropping out of the Washington School the circulation from the school libraries

READING ROOM

was 3,713 less than that of the preceding year. The total circulation, therefore, was nearly stationary, the increase in the home use of books being 1,470 volumes for the year.

The total issue of children's books was 99,717 volumes, divided as follows: Main library, 53,571; schools and playground, 32,997; Brooklyn Branch, 13,149. This circulation was based on a collection of 11,658 volumes, of which 5,051 were in the main library, 5,732 in the schools, and 875 in the Brooklyn Branch.

The circulation from the school libraries, which were open only one hour per week for a period of nine months, was more than half that of the main library, open every day (except Sundays and holidays) in the year.

Divided by months, the year's circulation as compared with that of the year preceding was as follows:

	1911	1912
January	13,469	14,549
February	13,142	15,519
March	15,097	16,627
April	12,914	14,564
May	11,523	13,990
June	11,477	12,261
July	11,845	14,125
August	12,651	13,673
September	12,182	11,392
October	14,797	13,018
November	15,744	15,227
December	14,355	13,453
	159,196	168,398
School libraries	35,635	31,921
Playground	——	1,075
Waterville Branch	10,225	11,495
Brooklyn Branch	18,029	15,464
South Branch	3,699	....
	226,784	228,353

Largest monthly circulation, March—16,627.

Largest day, March 16th—1,128.

Largest day in history of Library, February 13, 1909—1,251 volumes.

Circulation by classes in main library, January-December, 1912:

	Adult.	Per Cent.	Juvenile.	Per Cent.
General works	7,224	6.31	386	.72
Philosophy	888	.77	26	.05
Religion	734	.64	600	1.12
Sociology	1,580	1.38	1,329	2.48
Language	498	.43	32	.06
Science	1,736	1.51	1,308	2.44
Useful arts	3,245	2.83	661	1.23
Fine arts	2,566	2.23	1,987	3.71
Literature	4,528	3.94	2,313	4.32
Travel	2,001	1.74	2,771	5.17
Biography	1,534	1.34	1,877	3.51
History	1,628	1.41	3,950	7.37
Fiction	82,325	71.70	36,331	67.82
Foreign	4,340	3.77		
Total	114,827	100.00	53,571	100.00

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

Turning to the work of this department, there is encouraging evidence of growth both in the quantity and the quality of the work; in fact, the Library has already a reputation extending to the neighboring towns, for the opportunities which it offers to students.

Report of the Reference Librarian

There has been less work with children during the past year, many of their questions now being answered in the Children's Room, but there has been a very noticeable increase in the number of requests for information by adults. Two thousand four hundred and sixty-three questions (last year, 1831) were referred to this department. These questions range from the trivial to the important, but it is gratifying to note that many of them came from men employed in the various manufactories and trades of the city and that they are more and more looking to the Library as a source of practical information. Books on scientific management, advertising and salesmanship have had a steady demand, as well as those relating to carpentry, metal-work and machinery. The books for teaching English to foreigners have been repeatedly asked for. Although Waterbury is not considered an agricultural community, the bulletins published by the United States Department of Agriculture are often made use of, those on poultry raising being particularly popular.

READING ROOM

The usual work has been performed in looking up material for papers in the various women's clubs, and the debating societies have been active. During the year books and magazine articles on forty-six debates have been placed on shelves especially reserved for that purpose in the Patent Room.

At the request of teachers, volumes to the number of 639 have been set aside in the Study Room for periods of time varying from a few days to a whole term, and about 1,500 have been supplied in the Reading-Room. The teachers have also made considerable use of the circulating pictures collection. At the time of the exhibition of paintings by American artists, held in Mattatuck Hall, material relating to the life and work of these artists, with reproductions of their paintings, was placed in the Art Room.

Library bulletins. Owing to the failure of the printer, the regular monthly bulletin was discontinued, but short lists of books on timely topics are to be published from time to time. The subject of the last bulletin (June-July, 1912) was City Administration, copies of which were mailed to the principal city officials. Other bulletins issued were Mechanical Engineering (Jan., 1912); Clocks and Watches (Feb.-March); The Country House (April-May).

Book notices. The postal notices of books of interest to certain readers were sent out (195 in all) and in some cases received special acknowledgment. Bulletins containing the lists printed during the year were also mailed to such as might be interested.

The daily newspapers printed many items sent from the Library, and also furnished interesting articles about our work, written by their own reporters.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

The Children's Librarian returned from her course of study at the Pittsburgh Training School, and resumed her work in this Library too late in the fall of 1911 for any radical change in the work of the School Department. Some of the teachers felt that the issue of books encroached too much upon their time, and the Washington School dropped out, this withdrawal being partly compensated by the addition of certain rooms in three schools, to our list. The libraries had to be sent out as quickly as possible, and the consideration of special questions was postponed. The work of the schools has, however, been interesting and important; and co-operation, the keynote to success, is grow-

ing between the teachers and the Library. Visits were made during the year to all but one of the twenty-eight schools of the city, and stories were told in each room above the second grade in fourteen schools, ninety rooms in all. These stories were carefully selected to interest and aid the pupils in their grade work in literature, and this help was appreciated by the teachers.

In order that books sent to the schools might fit the needs of teachers and pupils, much time was spent during the summer in grading and revising the collections of books; but as this new plan went into effect this fall, its results cannot be indicated in this report, which, as far as the school libraries are concerned, ends with June, 1912.

CIRCULATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES

October, 1911-June, 1912

	Vols. in School.	Circulation.
Bishop Street	418	3,371
Bucks Hill	120	401
Bunker Hill	328	751
Chapel Street	226	622
Duggan	150	315
East Farms	73	118
Hopeville	229	919
Mill Plain	234	1,126
Lincoln	332	1,699
Margaret Croft	70	520
Merriman	531	2,753
Mulcahy	545	3,062
Park Road	162	541
Russell	329	2,236
Town Plot	319	1,071
Waterville	555	3,160
Webster	1,111	9,256
Total	5,732	31,921

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN

Work with the children has been along three lines, viz.: in the Children's Room of the main Library, at the Brooklyn Branch, and with the schools.

As to the first, the boys and girls are taught how to use the catalog and the books of reference; how to find the books upon the shelves; and how to make the Library useful in their studies. Many

CHILDREN'S ROOM

reference questions are asked and answered in this room, and books are often put aside upon a special shelf for consultation by members of a class. At the Brooklyn Branch the weekly story-hour, begun in October and discontinued in May, attracted an attendance of 4,101 children. The average attendance was 181, making it necessary to divide the children into three groups of manageable size, the same story being told to each group in turn. As many of the older boys and girls were present on these occasions, it was decided to form a special group for them, and at the close of the regular story-hour, to entertain them with hero tales. The average attendance at this group was thirty-two, a very satisfactory number considering that the children had to wait until a late hour for their stories.

The fairy tales told to the younger children were grouped by countries, seven nationalities being represented by a total of thirty stories. The hero tales included the stories of Roland and of the Chevalier Bayard, and a cycle of Homeric tales relating the adventures of Ulysses. The lives of two more authentic heroes were also related, namely Richard, the Lion-Hearted and Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell of Labrador fame.

Stories told in visits to the schools numbered fourteen, and in the upper grades, selections were read aloud from Aldrich's Story of a Bad Boy, French's Lance of Kanana, Pyle's Men of Iron, and Homer's Odyssey.

City playgrounds. That these are considered a necessity here is shown by the fact that our city has established several playgrounds, large and small, within its limits. Complying with the request of the manager of the largest of these (the South Main Street playground), the Bronson Library sent several boxes of books, fiction and non-fiction, in about equal numbers, for circulation among the children during the summer. The books had already seen hard service, and if not used in this way would have been candidates for the paper mill. Every Thursday afternoon during July and August, the Children's Librarian and one assistant were busy dealing out books at the playground, so busy, in fact, that two children were given a post of honor as helpers in the work. The equipment was simple, consisting of two tables, and a few school library boxes. The books, when not in circulation, were returned to the locked boxes. Four hundred and six children were given simple cards and enjoyed the privilege of taking the books home. The circulation for the two months was 1,075, or fiction 645, non-fiction

430, with an average circulation of 154. A special feature of the work was the story-telling which followed the giving out of the books, and which attracted a group of eager listeners. One result of this interesting and successful playground work was that the children learned the library methods and some became patrons of the main Library in the fall.

CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION

Our annual holiday exhibit of books suitable for gifts to children was held in the Art Room of the Library from November 18th to December 26th. Several changes and additions had been made, and the 340 books were grouped in divisions adapted to children of the picture-book age, to those from 6 to 9, and 9 to 12 years of age, and to older boys and girls. Most of the volumes, though of moderate cost, were specially desirable for a child's private library. Some of the new holiday books were added to the collection, such as E. Boyd Smith's Seashore Book; the Arabian Nights, illustrated by Dulac; Pligrim's Progress; Robinson Crusoe; Robin Hood and Scott's Talisman, all in beautiful new editions. A printed booklet, entitled Gifts for Children's Bookshelves, and including details of price and other information was issued, and copies of this were given to visitors and mailed to other libraries and to persons interested in children's reading. Many visited the exhibition for the purpose of familiarizing themselves with good editions of children's books, and in one instance a mother sent to the Library from a local bookstore that she might find out the best edition of a certain book before ordering it.

It is hoped that this annual advertisement of our resources in children's books will add to the already large number of those who regard the Library as an authority in this line.

BRANCH LIBRARIES

Owing to the fact that the expenses of the Library tended continually to outrun its income, it seemed best to curtail the hours of opening of the Branch Libraries, and to discontinue the South Branch until better accommodations could be found. On account of Miss Kennedy's resignation from the Brooklyn Branch, an arrangement was made to divide the time of one assistant between the two branches, and to open each of these on three afternoons and evenings of the week. The circulation at Brooklyn being almost twice that of Waterville, extra assistants were sent from

STORY HOUR AT THE BROOKLYN BRANCH

the main Library during the rush hours. The janitor of the main Library attended to the fires at Brooklyn and did the ordinary sweeping. The revised plan has proved more efficient and less expensive.

As shown in the general table of circulation, the issue of books at Waterville, was 11,495 volumes during the year, and at Brooklyn 15,464. The number of books now at Waterville is 718 and at Brooklyn 1,297. A peculiarity of the Brooklyn Branch is that the circulation is about three-fourths juvenile, adults apparently preferring to visit the main Library on account of the greater variety of books to be found there. It is probable that the foreign population might use this Branch to good advantage, and it would therefore be desirable to place there the collection of Lithuanian books for which petitions have at various times been presented to the Board.

Circulation by classes in Branch Libraries:

	Brooklyn.	Waterville.
General works	36	765
Philosophy	14	8
Religion	305	17
Sociology	470	59
Language	28	4
Science	691	75
Useful Arts	287	123
Fine Arts	427	234
Literature	922	105
Travel	1,292	98
Biography	788	108
History	1,421	177
Fiction	8,783	9,722
Total	15,464	11,495

Thirteen thousand one hundred and forty-nine children's books were issued in Brooklyn; but in Waterville, the children were provided for by deposit libraries in the Sprague School. Percentage of fiction read was 62 in Brooklyn and 84 in Waterville.

THE STAFF

The general health of the staff has been good, with the exception that Miss A. M. Gibby was incapacitated for several months by a serious illness, and that the janitor of the building has been for two months partially disabled by a

stroke of paralysis. Other absences due to illness amounted to a loss, in the aggregate, of a month's work.

Miss Myrtie A. Northrop was granted a leave of absence for the purpose of attending the Pittsburgh Training School for Children's Librarians, and left us in October of this year. She has taken a high standing during her first term at the school, and much improvement in the efficiency of this Library is expected, as a result of her careful training and wider experience.

On the whole, the work of the Library shows a definite advance, and there are many indications that there is a growing appreciation of its work on the part of the public.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN SPERRY, Librarian.

Jan. 10, 1913.

Statement for the Year 1912.

OTIS S. NORTHROP, TREASURER, *in account with*
THE BRONSON LIBRARY FUND.

DEBIT:

Balance on hand January 1, 1912		$ 632.68
Received on principal		4,000.00
Received from interest		12,791.91
Received from City of Waterbury appropriation		9,000.00
Received from Helen Sperry, Librarian, (fines, etc.)		1,408.19
Received from money borrowed		3,000.00
		$30,832.78

CREDIT:

Loans of principal	$ 4,000.00	
Payment of money borrowed	3,000.00	$7,000.00
Awnings	$ 51.00	
Books	4,518.13	
Binding supplies	104.26	
Binding books	1,562.28	
Catalogue supplies	1.00	
Electric lighting	475.04	
Electric lighting repairs	40.50	
Electric lighting supplies	19.23	
Express	114.43	
Fuel	580.00	
Furniture	40.50	
Insurance	125.00	
Interest	60.42	
Janitor's assistant	303.83	
Miscellaneous supplies	250.14	
Periodicals	662.73	
Printing	217.99	
Repairs	19.75	
Salaries	11,133.25	
Stationery	229.02	
Supplies	135.70	
Typewriter	59.50	
Telephone	77.41	
Traveling expenses	122.08	
Water taxes	29.09	$20,932.28

Waterville Branch

Lighting	$ 12.98	
Miscellaneous expenses	4.20	
Rent	120.00	
Salary	121.37	
Telephone	33.35	$291.90

Brooklyn Branch

Fuel	$ 25.25	
Lighting	17.16	
Miscellaneous expenses	10.25	
Repairs	40.80	
Salary	296.35	$389.81

South Branch

Rent	$ 3.00	
Salary	9.54	$12.54
Balance on hand January 1, 1913		$2,206.25
		$30,832.78

PUBLIC LIBRARY

FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

OF THE

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Forty-Fifth Annual Report

FOR 1913

WATERBURY, CONN.
1914

FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

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1914

THE HEMINWAY PRESS

OFFICERS OF

THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

1913

BOARD OF AGENTS

James E. Russell, 34 Chestnut Ave.	Term expires July 4, 1916
Otis S. Northrop, 51 Church St.	" " " 4, 1916
John O'Neill, 131 Cook St.	" " " 4, 1918
Terrence F. Carmody, 2 Chestnut Ave.	" " " 4, 1918
Francis P. Guilfoile, 246 Robbins St.	" " " 4, 1920
John P. Kellogg, 144 Buckingham St.	" " " 4, 1920
Bernard H. Fitzpatrick, 201 Willow St.	" " " 4, 1922
Lewis A. Platt, 36 Buckingham St.	" " " 4, 1922
Martin Scully, 218 Sylvan Ave.	" " " 4, 1924
James S. Elton, 70 Church St.	" " " 4, 1924
Edward L. Seery	" " " 4, 1926
Mark L. Sperry, 21 Cooke St.	" " " 4, 1926

OFFICERS

John O'Neill	*President*
Lewis A. Platt	*Secretary*
Otis S. Northrop	*Treasurer*

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry	*Librarian*
Edith McH. Steele	*First Assistant*
Elizabeth R. Frost	*Reference Librarian*
Alice M. Gibby	*Chief, Issue Department*
Eleanor M. Edwards	*Cataloger*
Sarah N. Church	*Children's Librarian*
Myrtie A. Northrop	*Children's Librarian*
Mary J. Fagan	*Assistant*
Louise K. Campion	"
Albina R. LaPrise	"
Saba Haugh	"
Elise A. Carroll	"
Bessie B. Richardson	"
Maud Davis	*Branch Librarian*

Janitor

John F. Hogan

Report of the Secretary

It will be interesting to those attentive to the development of the Library to refer to the statistical part of this report which deals with the present cost of getting books into the hands of readers compared with the former cost.

It will be observed that although we now have many points of distribution, each involving a separate organization, instead of only one point, as formerly, the expense per volume is much less. It will be noted also that the method of distribution from these branches is followed by a smaller loss of books than might be expected.

We note with regret that ill health has caused the retirement of Mr. C. N. Hall from the Library force. Mr. Hall has been connected with the institution since 1895 and has rendered valuable service in bringing the Library to its present state of efficiency.

LEWIS A. PLATT, *Secretary.*

Report of the Librarian

To the Board of Agents of the Bronson Library:

The report of the work of the Library for the year ending December 31, 1913 is herewith submitted:

Books on hand Jan. 1, 1913		88,692
Additions by purchase	6,758	
By gift	80	
Periodicals bound	45	
Connecticut documents	10	
U. S. documents	222	8,915
Total		97,607
Books worn out, lost, etc., adult	890	
Children's Room	1,080	
School libraries	597	
*Missing at inventory, 1912	234	2,801
Books in Main Library and Branches, January 1, 1914		94,806

Deducting losses due to wearing out of books, and other causes, the net increase of the Library was 6,114 volumes, or 3,501 more than in 1912. 890 books were discarded from the adult department and 1677 from the juvenile. Included in the latter were 440 children's books burned during the fire in the Sprague School at Waterville.

About 2,000 more books were bought for the Children's Department than for the adult, 1176 of these being assigned to the juvenile department of the Rose Hill Branch Library. There are at present 473 volumes in the Waterville Branch Library, 787 at Brooklyn, 2,007 at the Rose Hill Branch and 6,324 volumes distributed among 25 schoolhouses.

* (Adult, 128; juvenile, 106.)

Volumes purchased were classified as follows:

	Adult Vols.	Juvenile Vols
General works	14	1
Philosophy	21	2
Religion	49	61
Sociology	88	286
Language	29	4
Science	61	134
Useful arts	168	75
Fine arts	174	99
Literature	139	273
Travel	90	294
Biography	117	229
History	138	419
Fiction	1,185	2,501
Foreign	107	
	2,380	4,378

CIRCULATION

The circulation for the year increased 28,768 volumes, the total issues being 257,121 volumes divided as follows: Main Library, 169,402; school libraries, 40,641; Waterville Branch, 12,678; Brooklyn Branch, 18,901; Rose Hill (Oct.-Dec. only), 13,042; playgrounds, 2,457.

The increase in the issues of the main library was 1,004 volumes; at the school libraries, 8,720; at Waterville, 1,183; and at Brooklyn, 3,437; the rest of the increase being due to the opening of the new branch library, and to the playground circulation.

The issues of children's books numbered 125,287; being about 48 per cent of the entire circulation of the Library. Nearly one-third of these books were given out from the school deposit libraries, which were sent to all rooms from the third grade up, in 25 schoolhouses.

Divided by months, the year's circulation as compared with that of the preceding year was as follows:

	1912	1913
January	14,549	15,276
February	15,519	14,399
March	16,627	16,215
April	14,564	14,719
May	13,990	13,731
June	12,261	12,827
July	14,125	14,047
August	13,673	13,554
September	11,392	12,391
October	13,018	13,694
November	15,227	14,303
December	13,453	14,246
	168,398	169,402
School libraries	31,921	40,641
Playgrounds	1,075	2,457
Waterville Branch	11,495	12,678
Brooklyn Branch	15,464	18,901
Rose Hill Branch (Oct.-Dec. only)	.....	13,042
	228,353	257,121

Largest monthly circulation, March—16,215.

Largest day, March 22d—1,048.

Largest day in history of Library, February 13, 1909—1,251 volumes.

Circulation by classes in main library, January-December, 1913:

	Adult	Per Cent	Juvenile	Per Cent
General works	6,911	5.98	483	.90
Philosophy	828	.72	26	.05
Religion	791	.68	700	1.30
Sociology	1,912	1.65	1,683	3.13
Language	501	.43	25	.05
Science	1,869	1.62	1,331	2.47
Useful arts	3,353	2.90	802	1.49
Fine arts	3,083	2.67	1,832	3.41
Literature	4,745	4.10	2,192	4.07
Travel	1,972	1.71	2,692	5.01
Biography	1,745	1.51	2,007	3.73
History	1,951	1.69	3,900	7.25
Fiction	82,048	70.96	36,112	67.14
Foreign	3,900	3.38		
Total	115,617	100.00	53,785	100.00

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

While the popularizing of the Library is going on in the suburbs, the use of the main collection for scholarly purposes increases. 2,566 questions were referred, during the year, to the Reference Librarian, and the Children's Librarian looked up 120 subjects for her special constituency.

Although the publication of the Library bulletin had been discontinued. lists of books were compiled to meet special demands. Two of these were duplicated for us at the Business College, namely, Aids to Foreigners in Learning English, and Advertising and Business Management. As requests were made for books relating to Salesmanship, a few volumes were bought to meet this demand.

Lists of new books were printed weekly in two newspapers, and announcements by postal, were forwarded to persons known to be interested in certain subjects.

No accurate statistics of the use of books from the Reading-Room shelves could be kept. Volumes transferred there from the Circulating Department on special calls, numbered 1,100, and 561 volumes were reserved on the Study Room shelves for periods ranging from a few days to several weeks.

From our picture collection 594 pieces were issued; mostly to teachers.

Pamphlets. The wide scope and interest of the government publications is beginning to be realized, the pamphlets on beekeeping and poultry-raising, and the series known as Uncle Sam's Cook Book, being especially popular. The latter furnishes monographs on such subjects as breadmaking, the canning and preserving of fruits, and the food values and best methods of preparing cheese, cereals, nuts, vegetables and fruits, as well as fish and meats.

In the preparation of debates many pamphlets are used, because they often contain information of later date than any which has appeared in books or magazines.

All pamphlets sent to the Library are examined and classified by the Reference Librarian, and the more important ones are catalogued.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The work of this department which is under the care of graduates of the Pittsburg Training School for Children's Librarians, includes supervision of Children's Rooms in

the main Library and two branches, the issue of books in the city playgrounds during the summer, and the care of the deposit libraries in 25 schoolhouses and in three institutions, namely: St. Joseph's School, St. Mary's Day Nursery, and the Open Air School.

Twenty-six visits were made to 17 schools in order to bring about a closer co-operation with the teachers, and stories were told to the children beginning with fairy-tales in the third grade, and leading up through folk-tales, hero tales and myths, to selections from Don Quixote and Homer's Odyssey in the upper grades.

The Children's Room of the Brooklyn Branch was under the supervision of Miss Myrtie Northrop, who formed two clubs, one for the younger children with an average attendance of 50, and one for the older boys and girls, with an average attendance of 15.

At the Rose Hill Branch, a dramatic club of 30 girls from the seventh and eighth school grades was formed, and met at the Library under the direction of Miss Sarah N. Church.

Playgrounds. Co-operation with the city playgrounds was carried on by utilizing soiled books withdrawn from the school libraries and children's rooms. 1,670 of these volumes were divided among 4 city playgrounds, and were given out under the direction of assistants from the main library. 13 nationalities were represented among the children, and books to the number of 2457 were circulated among 712 borrowers.

At Sylvan Avenue 874 volumes were issued; at South Main Street, 738; at Chase Park, 466; and at Hamilton Park, 379.

School libraries. Books were sent to most of the rooms in 25 schoolhouses, and the total circulation, 40,641 volumes was a gain of 8,720 over the issues of 1912.

CIRCULATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES

School	Books Sent	Circulation
Barnard	109	692
Bishop Street	393	4,686
Bucks Hill	97	347
Bunker Hill	357	1,736
Chapel Street	160	827
Clay Street	208	2,025
East Farms	12	24

School	Books Sent	Circulation
East Mountain	100	248
Hamilton Avenue	121	785
Hendricken	337	2,693
Hopeville	152	1,205
Lincoln	141	689
Margaret Croft	60	322
Merriman	431	3,530
Mill Plain	144	672
Mulcahy	673	3,136
Newton Heights	30	113
Park Road	84	550
Porter Street	65	134
Reidville	95	103
Russell	493	3,815
*Sprague	440	———
Town Plot	285	1,181
Webster	983	9,167
Welton Street	218	1,961
Total	6,188	40,641

BRANCH LIBRARIES

The circulation of the little branch libraries at Waterville and at Brooklyn is increasing and at Waterville especially, the librarian is doing much to acquaint people with the resources and methods of the main library, often, in her weekly visits to the latter, bringing requests and information which are of service in determining the selection of books for that district.

The gain in circulation during the year was 3,437 at Brooklyn, and at Waterville 1,183 volumes. The total issue of books at Brooklyn was 18,901, divided adult 3,344 volumes, (fiction 77 per cent) and juvenile 15,557, (fiction 58 per cent). In Waterville the total was 12, 678 volumes chiefly issued to adult readers, fiction forming 86 per cent.

Rose Hill Branch. By vote of the Board of Aldermen $3,000 was appropriated for the equipment of the abandoned Rose Hill Engine House on Baldwin Street as a Library Branch. Including books, the expenditures were $3,751 and there is other necessary work which will bring the total up to $4,000.

* Books were lost in fire.

The library was opened October 3, 1913, with 2,057 books (1,176 juvenile, 881 adult) on the shelves, Miss Sarah N. Church being in charge of the Children's Room and Miss Mary J. Fagan in the adult department. The first book issued was charged to Elizabeth Coughlan in the Children's Room. Through the co-operation of the teachers in signing registration slips, the children came to the Library with their reader's cards made out and began drawing books at once. The scene was exhilerating, but the confusion not serious. Within the 5 hours of opening 349 books were given out to the children; but only 48 to adults. Since the first day, the use of the Library by adults has reached the high water mark of 108 volumes in one afternoon and evening.

Much enthusiasm is shown by the assistants in charge of the Branch and the work is broadening in character. During the Holidays a Christmas tree was set up in the Children's Room and a few of the boys and girls spent an evening in decorating it. On Christmas eve, 106 children listened quietly to VanDyke's beautiful story of the First Christmas Tree as told by Miss Church, the librarian.

A dramatic club of thirty boys and girls has been formed and will study some of Shakespeare's plays as well as dramatized versions of the Courtship of Miles Standish and Evangeline.

Delivery stations. At the request of the residents of the district, a delivery station was opened in the Bunker Hill schoolhouse on the 6th of February, a writing-desk and fifty books forming the equipment. Every week an assistant from the Library visited the station and spent an hour or more distributing the books, taking orders for volumes to be sent by messenger on Thursdays, and informing the people of the resources of the main Library.

Although the circulation averaged only 27 volumes per week, the privilege was enjoyed by those who availed themselves of it, and when the pressure of other work made it necessary to withdraw the service, emphatic protest was made.

Other stations were started during the year, at the Southmayed Home, and the Burton, Scovill, Willow, Leavenworth and Washington Street fire-houses, 753 volumes in all being distributed among them.

MUSEUM

On account of the inconvenient situation of the Museum on upper floors not reached by an elevator, the public has not greatly benefited by our interesting collections. When therefore, the Mattatuck Historical Society offered to combine our exhibits with its own in their new fireproof building the Board of Agents of the Library approved the suggestion by the following resolution adopted December 28, 1912:

Resolved that the offer of the Mattatuck Historical Society to provide space in their exhibition hall for the museum collections of the Silas Bronson Library be accepted under conditions as follows:

That the expense of transportation, arrangement and care of the collections be undertaken by the Mattatuck Historical Society.

That the show cases and collections belonging to this Library be marked Loaned by the Silas Bronson Library.

That the Library collections be subject to removal by the Library, if at any future time the Board of Agents consider it expedient so to do.

That the collection be exhibited without charge to the public, at reasonable times.

That the collection be kept insured against loss by fire, for the protection of the Library.

The vote of the Historical Society is given below:

Voted: that the offer of the agents of the Silas Bronson Library to loan its museum collection to this society be accepted in accordance with the conditions made by them as per vote of said Library Agents of December 28, 1912, and subject to return to them at any future date when in the judgment of the council of the Mattatuck Historical Society the space occupied may be needed for exhibits of a historical character, for which the society was specially organized to collect.

The removal was accomplished between the 18th and 25th of January 1913, and on the 8th of October, the combined collections were opened to the public. They are now on view from 9 to 12 and 2 to 5 every week-day, with Sunday hours from 12 to 5 p. m. except for the 5 months from May to September inclusive. The number of visitors reported for the three months October to December, inclusive was 2,175 of which 1478 came on Sunday afternoons, an average of 113 visits for the 13

Sundays. As the usual number of visits on the Saturday afternoons at the Library did not exceed 18, it is evident that the change is appreciated by the public.

BUDGET EXHIBIT

The city budget exhibition, held during December 1913, provided a welcome opportunity to bring the Library to the attention of the public, and especially to make known to the workers of the city some books of practical value in the trades. The books sent over were arranged in cases lent by the Hampson-Mintie Co., the following subjects being represented: Modern Business Methods, 29 vols.; Mechanical books, 24 vols.; and Domestic economy, including house-planning and furnishing, cookery and other domestic arts, 40 volumes.

The best books for children were represented by 75 selected volumes. For the benefit of the teachers, selections of pictures for illustrative work in classes were exhibited, and aroused much interest. Members of the Library staff were detailed to be present at the exhibit during the busy hours of the day, and to give any information desired by visitors. Some of the books shown have since been asked for at the Library, while many people expressed surprise at the extent and variety of our work. Items mentioned on the statistical placards are printed below.

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

Silas Bronson Fund, 1869	$188,000
Mrs. Caroline O. Platt, 1900	20,000
Elisha Leavenworth, 1911	10,000
Total	$218,000

Present building opened September, 1894
Cost $63,000
The Library is free of debt.

43 YEARS OF USEFULNESS

	Income	Circulation	Salaries	Population
1870	$10,959	76,769	$ 3,667	13,148
1912	23,199	228,353	11,862	73,141

Since 1870 nearly 4,000,000 volumes have been circulated by the Bronson Library among the people of Waterbury.

Increase of Efficiency

Decrease of Unit Cost

The Record of the Last Ten Years

Circulation of the Bronson Library.

1912	228,353
1902	92,154
Growth	136,199
Per Cent	147.10

Cost of maintainance and operation per thousand of circulation.

1902	$136.23
1912	94.70
Decrease	$41.53
Per cent	30.4

Cost of operation and maintainance.

1912	$21,626
1902	12,555
Increase	$ 9,071
Per cent	72.2

Circulation *grew* 147.7

Unit cost of operation *decreased* 30.4

SOME OF THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE WITH THE CITY'S MONEY

First appropriation from city, 1903	$ 1,000
Last appropriation from city, 1913	12,000

School deposit Libraries begun 1903	Circulation	1903	4,122
	"	1912	31,921
Waterville Branch— founded 1907	"	1908	7,056
	"	1912	11,495
Brooklyn Branch— founded 1909	"	1910	21,339
	"	1912	15,464
Rose Hill Branch— founded 1913	"	Oct. and Nov.	8,482

An interesting graphic placard was also exhibited showing that "the expense of libraries to the city is $\frac{1}{133}$ of the whole cost of running the city'.'

SUMMARY

In surveying the work of the Library, we find that out of a total circulation of 257,121 volumes, 30 per cent (87,719 v.) was distributed through outside agencies, a surprising amount considering that the school library circulation is confined to one hour per week for eight months in the year, and that none of the branches are open more than 15 hours per week.

Work at the main library increases as outside agencies multiply. The technical work of the branches, such as order work, classifying, cataloging, shelf-listing, preparation of the books for circulation, registration of readers, overdue notices, repairs, rebinding and revision of statistics, are done at the main library. Assistants at the Branches are sent out from the main, and on their return spend much time in looking up information for their readers or getting together collections of books to be sent by messenger. The preparation of school deposit libraries occupies most of the summer months. These books, about 7,000 in all are returned in various stages of dilapidation from the schoolhouses, and have to be inventoried, repaired and rebound. Additional volumes are purchased, and in the fall the books are all sent out again, carefully graded, and with a complete catalogue for each schoolroom.

With this growing complexity of the work, the keeping of 94,000 books and 40,000 pamphlets in good order and condition, and instantly available for public use, requires a well-trained staff and the spirit of unselfish service in all its members. It gives me pleasure to express my appreciation of the cordial co-operation of my assistants in all measures for the extension of the library work, and the improvement of its service to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

January 10, 1914. HELEN SPERRY, *Librarian.*

Statement for the Year 1913

OTIS S. NORTHROP, TREASURER, *in account with*

THE BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

DEBIT:

Balance on hand January 1, 1913	$ 2,206.25
Received on principal fund	3,500.00
Received from interest	12,294.96
Received from City of Waterbury appropriation	9,000.00
Received from money borrowed	3,000.00
Received from City of Waterbury (Baldwin St. branch)	1,130.36
Received from Helen Sperry, Librarian, (fines, etc.)	1,284.53
	$32,416.10

CREDIT:

Loans of principal	$ 4,000.00	
Payment of money borrowed	3,000.00	$7,000.00

EXPENDITURES

Books	$ 5,144.18	
Binding supplies	61.16	
Binding books and periodicals	1,109.65	
Car tickets	58.10	
Cleaning materials	57.67	
Express	101.42	
Electric light supplies	92.70	
Conn. Library Ass'n expense	1.81	
Furniture	847.81	
Fuel	534.06	
Insurance	125.00	
Janitor's assistant	139.75	
Lighting	517.60	
Miscellaneous	341.98	
Periodicals	430.85	
Printing	192.80	
Postage	46.28	
Repairs	695.87	
Salaries	12,002.51	
Stationery	136.81	
Supplies	273.07	
Telephone	74.66	
Typewriter	70.00	
Water tax	43.33	
Interest	34.89	$23,133.96

Waterville Branch

Lighting	$ 14.85	
Miscellaneous	12.88	
Rent	120.00	
Salaries	227.50	
Telephone	27.05	$ 402.28

Brooklyn Branch

Express	$ 1.50	
Light supplies	9.37	
Fuel	1.00	
Lighting	35.53	
Miscellaneous	22.08	
Repairs	28.51	
Salaries	157.50	
Telephone	41.25	$ 296.74

Rose Hill Branch

Expense	$ 52.00	
Electric light supplies and repairs	10.81	
Furniture	189.94	
Fuel	32.75	
Lighting	15.00	
Miscellaneous	25.38	
New Equipment	260.00	
Pictures	19.12	
Repairs	127.28	
Supplies	19.45	$ 751.73
Balance on hand January 1, 1914		$ 831.39
		$32,416.10

Examined and found correct, January....., 1914

J. S. Elton,
Martin Scully,
B. H. Fitzpatrick,
} *Finance Committee*

JUN 1915

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

OF THE

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

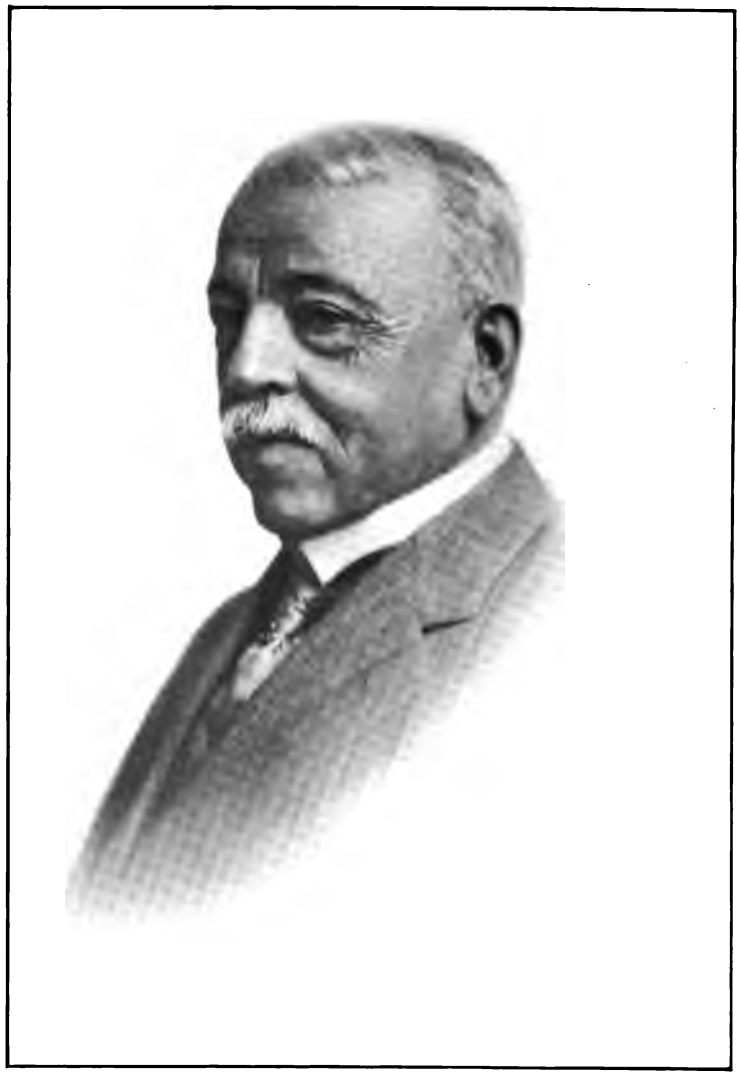
Treasurer's Forty-Sixth Annual Report

FOR 1914

WATERBURY, CONN.
1915

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS



JOHN O'NEILL

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGENTS

1911 - 1914

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

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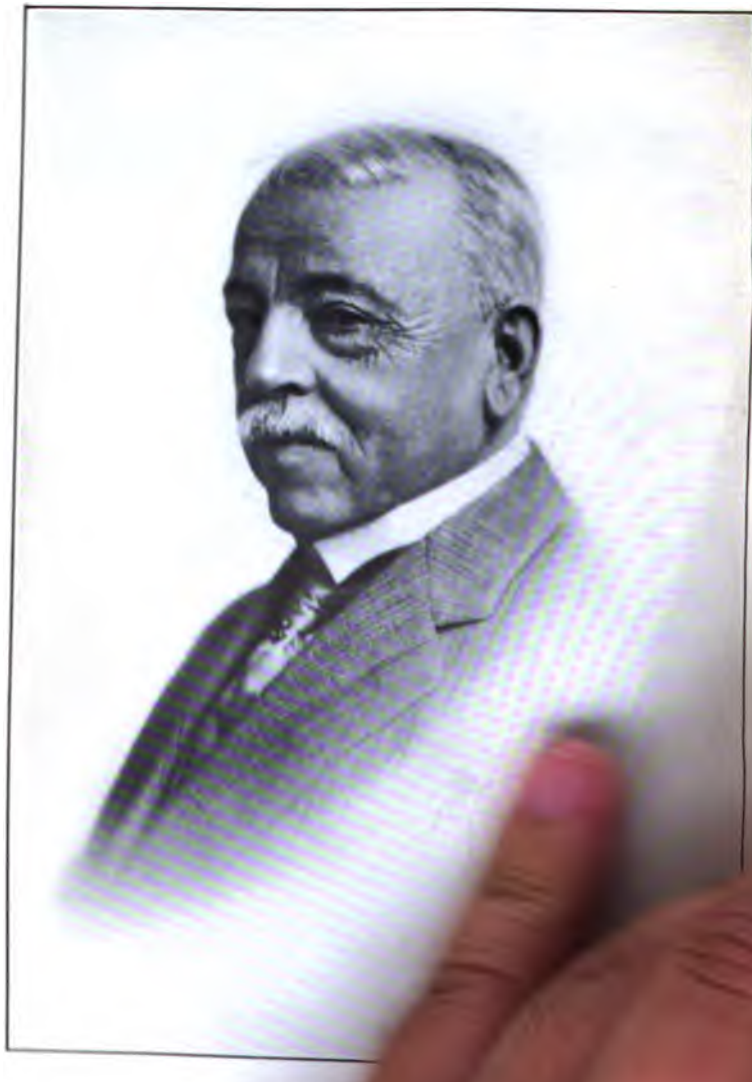
Silas



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PRESIDENT OF

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Trea Forty-Sixth Annual Report

FOR 1914

CONN.

THE HEMINWAY PRESS

OFFICERS OF

THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

1914

BOARD OF AGENTS

James E. Russell, 34 Chestnut Ave.	Term expires July 4, 1916
Otis S. Northrop, 51 Church St.	" " " 4, 1916
*John O'Neill, 131 Cooke St.	" " " 4, 1918
Terrence F. Carmody, 2 Chestnut Ave.	" " " 4, 1918
Francis P. Guilfoile, 246 Robbins St.	" " " 4, 1920
John P. Kellogg, 144 Buckingham St.	" " " 4, 1920
Bernard H. Fitzpatrick, 201 Willow St.	" " " 4, 1922
Lewis A. Platt, 36 Buckingham St.	" " " 4, 1922
Martin Scully, 218 Sylvan Ave.	" " " 4, 1924
James S. Elton, 70 Church St.	" " " 4, 1924
Edward L. Seery, 407 West Main St.	" " " 4, 1926
Mark L. Sperry, 21 Cooke St.	" " " 4, 1926

OFFICERS

*John O'Neill	*President*
Lewis A. Platt	*Secretary*
Otis S. Northrop	*Treasurer*

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry	*Librarian*
Edith McH. Steele	*First Assistant*
Elizabeth R. Frost	*Reference Librarian*
Alice M. Gibby	*Chief, Issue Department*
Eleanor M. Edwards	*Cataloger*
Sarah N. Church	*Children's Librarian*
Myrtie A. Northrop	*Children's Librarian*
Mary J. Fagan	*Assistant*
Louise K. Campion	"
Albina R. LaPrise	"
Saba Haugh	"
Elise A. Carroll	"
Bessie B. Richardson	"
Maud Davis	*Branch Assistant*

Janitors

John F. Hogan Michael J. Scadden

*Died, 1914

Library hours, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Reading-room open Sundays, 2 to 6 p. m. September to April inclusive.

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Eleanor M. Edwards	*Cataloger*
Sarah N. Church	*Children's Librarian*
Myrtie A. Northrop	*Children's Librarian*
Mary J. Fagan	*Assistant*
Louise K. Campion	"
Albina R. LaPrise	"
Saba Haugh	"
Elise A. Carroll	"
Bessie B. Richardson	"
Maud Davis	*Branch Assistant*

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Report of the Secretary

In reading the report for the year 1914 one is impressed by the increasing number of methods by which the usefulness of the Library is being enlarged.

It is apparent that if development in these directions is carried too far the enlargement of the Library, by the purchase of books will have to be limited.

Mr. John O'Neill, President of the Board of Agents, died August 7th, 1914, at the age of 73 years.

He was elected a member of the Board of Agents in 1882 and in 1911 was made president, succeeding Mr. F. J. Kingsbury.

On the death of Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Martin Scully, a member of the Board of Agents since January 1901, was elected president.

By vote of the Board of Aldermen, December 8th, 1914, Alderman Chas. H. Swenson was elected to fill Mr. O'Neill's unexpired term of four years, on the Board of Agents of the Bronson Library.

LEWIS A. PLATT, *Secretary.*

Report of the Librarian

To the Board of Agents of the Bronson Library:

The report of the work of the Library for the year ending December 31, 1913 is herewith submitted:

Books on hand January 1, 1914		94,806
Additions by purchase	5,660	
By gift	81	
Periodicals bound	204	
Connecticut documents	10	
United States documents	232	6,187
Total		100,993
Books worn out, lost, etc., adult	847	
Children's books	1,513	
School libraries	837	
Missing at inventory, adult	294	
Missing books, juvenile	435	3,926
Books in Main Library and Branches, January 1, 1915		97,067

Deducting losses due to wearing out of books, and other causes, the net increase of the library was 2,261 volumes, or 3,853 less than in 1913.

The wearing out and other losses in the Children's Department amounted to 2,785, and in the adult department to 1,141 volumes. Meanwhile, there was an increase of nearly 36,000 volumes in the issues of the Library. 3,741 books were bought for the Children's Department, 1,356 being assigned to the school libraries. Additions of children's books exceeded those bought for adults by 1,822 volumes.

The replacement of worn out books and duplicates of the more popular ones numbered 4,909, or 85 per cent. of all purchased. New titles were 850, of which about 200 were fiction. Owing to the large expenses of administration, due in a measure to the development of our branch libraries, less money was available for books, while prices increased notably during the year.

Volumes purchased were classified as follows:

	Adult	Juvenile
General works	12	3
Philosophy	18	0
Religion	42	31
Sociology	110	132
Language	17	0
Science	32	57
Useful Arts	109	68
Fine Arts	147	189
Literature	154	128
Travel	77	169
Biography	97	211
History	37	245
Fiction	1,067	2,508
Total	1,919	3,741

CIRCULATION

The circulation of books (293,656) was 36,535 larger than in 1914. There was an increase of 9,222 volumes in the issues of the main library, 511 at Waterville, 3,297 at Brooklyn, and at the playgrounds, 712. The Rose Hill Branch Library during its first complete year circulated 35,653 volumes, or 22,611 more than in 1913, when it was open for three months only.

The home use of children's books (143,079 volumes) was nearly 50 per cent. of the entire circulation. 57,511 children's books were charged in the main building, and 40,369 in the school deposit libraries. The remainder (45,199) were issued from the branch libraries and the playgrounds. Divided by months, the year's circulation as compared with that of the preceding year was as follows:

	1913	1914
January	15,276	14,997
February	14,399	14,483
March	16,215	16,965
April	14,719	15,053
May	13,731	13,271
June	12,827	13,595

	1913	1914
July	14,047	15,506
August	13,554	15,196
September	12,391	12,374
October	13,694	14,774
November	14,303	15,849
December	14,246	16,564
	169,402	178,624
School libraries	40,641	40,369
Playgrounds	2,457	3,169
Waterville Branch	12,678	13,189
Brooklyn Branch	18,901	22,198
Rose Hill Branch	13,042	35,653
Chase Park House	.....	338
Waterbury Industiral School	.....	116
	257,121	293,656

Largest monthly circulation at the main library was in March—16,915. Largest day, December 5th—1,057.

Record day in the history of the library, February 13, 1909—1,251 volumes.

Circulation by Classes in Main Library, January to December 1914

	Adult	Per cent	Juvenile	Per cent
General Works	5,066	4.18	717	1.25
Philosophy	901	.74	21	.04
Religion	893	.74	646	1.12
Sociology	2,332	1.93	2,090	3.63
Language	633	.52	0	.00
Science	2,005	1.66	1,435	2.50
Useful Arts	4,239	3.50	932	1.62
Fine Arts	3,527	2.91	2,776	4.83
Literature	5,264	4.35	2,970	5.16
Travel	2,287	1.89	3,427	5.96
Biography	2,244	1.85	2,466	4.29
History	2,075	1.71	4,820	8.38
Fiction	85,649	70.72	35,211	61.22
Foreign	3,998	3.30		
Total	121,113	100.00	57,511	100.00

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The use of the library for information has kept pace with its development in other lines. 2,932 questions were referred during the year to the Reference Librarian, and the Children's Librarian looked up 343 subjects for her special constituency. The telephone was frequently used by those who desired information, but found it inconvenient to visit the Library, and such calls received careful attention. Books in the non-fiction classes were brought to the attention of individuals by postal card notifications, and the general public was kept informed by means of weekly articles published in the newspapers. In the adult department there was an increase in the number of questions relating to industrial subjects.

Material for 77 debates (523 volumes) was furnished, most of it being used by High School debating societies.

689 mounted pictures were lent, one teacher using them regularly throughout the year in connection with her geography classes. Colored pictures of birds and flowers were in demand at the beginning of the summer.

The pamphlet collection proved useful in bringing statistical information to date. 382 pamphlets, nearly half of them relating to agricultural subjects, were drawn for home use.

Reference classes. Definite instruction of classes from the High School was attempted this year, for the first time. Through the coöperation of teachers in the English Department a lesson in the use of the Library was arranged for 500 pupils of the Freshman class. The hour assigned was from 8:30 to 9:30 in the morning, and the pupils came in divisions according to special appointment. They were taught to use the card catalog, and also to look up questions in the principal encyclopedias, for practice work. The plan was afterwards extended to the 21 eighth grades of the city, the Children's Librarian making a preliminary visit to the schools, explaining the use of the Library and arranging with the teachers for the visits of the classes to the Library. Two divisions came on Tuesday afternoons, each receiving an hour's instruction, for which several trained assistants gave their time. Results seem to justify the time required, as it introduced the pupils to the Library, and made them feel at home among the books.

Experience with the information desk having proved that readers are glad of assistance in looking up books on special subjects, the Reference Librarian arranged to carry the work further by detailing a competent assistant to spend an hour in the stack room during the busy part of each day, for the express purpose of answering inquiries. The service was appreciated by the public, and an extension of it seems desirable.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The work of this department which is directed by graduates of the Pittsburgh Training School for Children's Librarians, includes the supervision of Children's Rooms in the main Library and two branches, the care of the school deposit libraries and the playground libraries in the summer, the selection, buying, and grading of children's books, and the development of special collections for children's reading. In October, 1914, an "intermediate library" was started for boys and girls just beginning to use the adult department of the Library. This collection contains 143 volumes, and circulates about 100 per month. The Freshman "required reading", occupying shelves near the Intermediate Department, issues about 250 volumes per month. On the border line between children and adults, the Reference Librarian of the main Library works with the Children's Department in forming classes for the study of reference books in the main Library.

The sending of deposit libraries to the schoolhouses began in 1903 and has since been extended throughout the city, 21 schoolhouses (102 rooms from the third to the eighth grades) being now supplied with these little collections for the home reading of the pupils. The list of schools served in this way varies somewhat from year to year. In some neighborhoods the books are so badly treated that the teachers are unwilling to accept the responsibility of their care, and in others a branch library supersedes the school libraries. On the opening of the Rose Hill Branch, deposit libraries were removed from the Merriman, Mulcahy, and Washington Schools, but as new schools were added to the list, the loss in circulation for the year was only 272 volumes. In all this work the coöperation of the teachers is recognized as an indispensable factor to success, so that every effort is made to relieve them of technical details and a cordial interest is taken in suggestions for

changes or additions in the making of the libraries. Twice each year the Children's Librarian visits the teachers, and this visit is made the occasion for interesting children by telling stories selected from the best imaginative literature. Visits were made in 1914 to 29 schoolhouses and 116 stories were told.

Playgrounds. Soiled books withdrawn from the school libraries and children's rooms were given out in the playgrounds during the summer under the direction of assistants from the main Library. Thirteen nationalities were represented among the children at the playgrounds. At Locust Street 1610 books were issued; at South Main Street, 991; and at Sylvan Avenue, 568 volumes.

CIRCULATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES, 1914

Schools	Books sent	Circulation
Barnard	150	1,007
Bishop Street	454	4,542
Bucks Hill	123	292
Bunker Hill	355	1,340
Chapel Street	291	1,583
Driggs	1,245	7,219
East Mountain	109	508
Hamilton Avenue	120	1,131
Hendricken	403	2,291
Hopeville	180	719
Lincoln	160	862
Mary Abbott	94	599
Mill Plain	226	1,103
Newton Heights	30	111
Park Road	202	636
Reidville	102	389
Russell	484	3,697
Sprague	537	3,467
Town Plot	445	1,967
Walsh	55	396
Webster	1,116	6,510
Total	6,881	40,369

BRANCH LIBRARIES

An inventory taken in October showed that there were 691 volumes at Waterville, 1,850 at Brooklyn, and 2,458 at Rose Hill Branch. The proportion of juvenile reading to adult was 83 per cent. at Brooklyn and 64 at Rose Hill. Fiction read at Brooklyn was 72 per cent., juvenile 54, and at Rose Hill, adult fiction was 86 per cent. and juvenile 62. At Waterville, where the library contains books for adults chiefly, the circulation of fiction was 86 per cent. The Waterville Library is not as well equipped as the others, being insufficiently heated and ventilated, and accessible only by means of a steep stairway. The dinginess of the room was relieved this summer by new paint and paper. There has recently been a demand for Swedish books at Waterville, and there is some interest in industrial topics. Twice a week books are sent up on the request of the branch librarian, who keeps in touch with the main library by working in it one day in the week.

In Brooklyn there is a large foreign population, so that the natural development there would be as a center for foreign books. Italians are in the majority, but Lithuanians seem more eager to read. This branch contains at present a small collection of books in Italian and in Lithuanian.

The Rose Hill Branch is the only one which occupies an entire building, and has a separate children's room. Because of its nearness to three large schoolhouses it is abundantly patronized by children, who make vigorous demands on the assistants for help in looking up questions connected with their school work. During the rush hours five assistants are needed to cope with these eager and restless visitors. The situation at Brooklyn is the same, though in a less degree. The Rose Hill Branch tends to develop also in the line of social work. There is a Saturday morning club for girls, which presented dramatic versions of The Courtship of Miles Standish, Hiawatha, Evangeline, and the Taming of the Shrew; two of these being given in costume before a neighborhood audience. There are also two Freshman Reading Clubs and a debating club of boys and girls discussing the topics of the day. The legal holidays are made the occasion for celebrations and reciprocal entertainments by the rival clubs. Hallowe'en, St. Patrick's Day, Christmas, and New Year's, were all appropriately observed, neighbors and friends being invited to the revels.

Special work at Brooklyn has been confined to a story hour on Saturdays from December to April, inclusive, and to a Robin Hood Club with a membership of 37 boys and girls. Five nationalities were represented among the members, and their average age was 14 years. The object of the club was to cultivate a love of good reading.

Hours of opening for the Branches are as follows: At Waterville, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays; and at Brooklyn, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, from 3:30 to 6:00 and from 7:00 to 9:00 p. m.; Rose Hill, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 3:00 to 6:00 and 7:30 to 9:00 p. m.

CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION

In planning our annual exhibition of the best books for children, Miss Northrop and Miss Steele combined their talents with pronounced success. The books were arranged in the spacious and well-lighted room formerly occupied by the museum. The upper ranges of the shelves to a depth of three feet were covered with brown burlap forming a background for a frieze of colored prints. The fine reproductions of Abbey's Holy Grail pictures, published in the Sunday Times, made an effective border over the books for older children, and Arthur Rackham's illustrations and Jesse Wilcox Smith's Mother Goose series decorated the younger children's shelves. The picture books were arranged along one side of the room and the rest of the collection was divided into books for children under six, from six to nine, from nine to twelve, and for children over twelve years of age. A special feature was the exhibition of a large number of good books ranging in price from 25 to 75 cents. Pads and pencils were placed on tables about the room and people were invited to spend as much time as they pleased in deciding on suitable editions for gifts. Prices were written in the books and assistance was given when desired, in making up lists for ordering through the bookstores. The exhibition lasted from November 27th until after Christmas, and was visited by 250 people, who enthusiastically expressed their pleasure in the books, the quiet, spacious room, and the intelligent attention given to visitors.

MISCELLANEOUS

Out of a total circulation of 293,656 volumes, 115,032 were distributed through outside agencies: a gain of 27,313 from these sources. Books were sent every three weeks to the Leavenworth Street Engine House for the use of the firemen, the total number being 255 volumes. There was a semi-monthly delivery also at the Washington Avenue Engine House, 276 volumes, and at the Southmayd Home 410 volumes were used. These books were recorded as part of the circulation of the main library.

Binding. 3,858 volumes were bound at an average cost of 33 cents each. 1,349 volumes were adult books (including 204 periodicals), and 2,509 were juvenile.

The Museum. The Mattatuck Historical Society reported that there were 5,357 visitors to the combined collections of the Bronson Library and the Historical Society, during the year 1914. Hours of opening were 6 every day including Sundays from September to April, inclusive.

The Reading Room of the Library was open on Sunday afternoons, during the months October to May, inclusive, with an attendance of 6,112 readers, about equally divided between children and grown people.

Publicity. The Library has advertised its resources through the medium of book notes written each week for the columns of two leading newspapers. The ensuing demand for the books usually exceeded the supply, and proved that the notes were read with interest. It is our policy to study the life of the city and if possible to meet its needs as they arise, so that there are now many library centers expanding in widening circles of influence. It is impossible to express in figures the varied interests of this active, industrial city as reflected in the demands upon the Library. The growing dependence upon this institution as a source of information is the most hopeful indication of its service to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN SPERRY,

Librarian.

Statement for the Year 1914

OTIS S. NORTHROP, TREASURER, *in account with*

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

DEBIT:

Balance on hand January 1, 1914	$ 831.39
Received on principal fund	16,000.00
Received from interest	12,427.20
Received from City of Waterbury appropriation	11,500.00
Received from money borrowed	3,500.00
Received from Helen Sperry, Librarian, (fines, etc.)	1,435.98
Received from Insurance Rebates	129.85
	$45,824.42

CREDIT:

Loans of principal	$ 9,000.00	
Payment of money borrowed	3,500.00	$12,500.00

EXPENDITURES

Binding books	$ 1,284.23	
Binding supplies	284.25	
Books	4,690.17	
Electric light repairs	84.64	
Expense	35.87	
Fuel	532.50	
Furniture	226.45	
Insurance	1,142.00	
Interest ($15.98 and $51.05)	67.03	
Lighting	432.56	
Miscellaneous	232.89	
Printing	120.14	
Pictures	3.10	
Periodicals	605.58	
Repairs	1,602.72	
Salaries	14,176.84	
Stationery	312.74	
Supplies	243.31	
Telephone	108.93	
Transportation	140.33	
Water Tax	57.27	$26,383.55

Brooklyn Branch:

Electric light supplies	$ 1.30	
Fuel	17.69	
Lighting	33.40	
Miscellaneous	1.45	
Repairs	69.57	
Supplies	2.00	
Transportation	9.00	
Telephone	18.10	$ 152.51

Rose Hill Branch:

Electric light repairs	$ 15.27	
Fuel	141.59	
Furniture	67.35	
Lighting	30.00	
Miscellaneous	21.53	
Repairs	65.66	
Supplies	3.36	
Telephone	35.10	
Transportation	.35	$ 380.21

Waterville Branch:

Fuel	$ 3.02	
Furniture	2.85	
Lighting	13.30	
Miscellaneous	1.42	
Repairs	21.22	
Rent	120.00	
Transportation	9.00	
Telephone	19.20	$ 190.01
Balance on hand, January 1, 1915		$ 6,218.14
		$45,824.42

Examined and found correct, January 14, 1915.

J. S. Elton,
B. H. Fitzpatrick,
Martin Scully,
} *Finance Committee.*

FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

OF THE

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Forty-Seventh Annual Report

FOR 1915

WATERBURY, CONN.
1916

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FOR 1915

WATERBURY, CONN.
1916

THE HEMINWAY PRESS

OFFICERS OF

THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

1915

BOARD OF AGENTS

James E. Russell, 34 Chestnut Ave.	Term expires July 4, 1916
Otis S. Northrop, 51 Church St.	" " " 4, 1916
Charles H. Swenson, 170 Hill St.	" " " 4, 1918
Terrence F. Carmody, 2 Chestnut Ave.	" " " 4, 1918
Francis P. Guilfoile, 246 Robbins St.	" " " 4, 1920
John P. Kellogg, 144 Buckingham St.	" " " 4, 1920
Bernard H. Fitzpatrick, 201 Willow St.	" " " 4, 1922
Lewis A. Platt, 36 Buckingham St.	" " " 4, 1922
Martin Scully, 218 Sylvan Ave.	" " " 4, 1924
James S. Elton, 70 Church St.	" " " 4, 1924
Edward L. Seery, 407 West Main St.	" " " 4, 1926
Mark L. Sperry, 21 Cooke St.	" " " 4, 1926

OFFICERS

Martin Scully	*President*
Lewis A. Platt	*Secretary*
Otis S. Northrop	*Treasurer*

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry	*Librarian*
Eleanor M. Edwards	*Reference Librarian*
Alice M. Gibby	*Chief, Issue Department*
Ruth Judd	*Cataloger*
Sarah N. Church	*Children's Librarian*
Myrtie A. Northrop	*Children's Librarian*
Mary J. Fagan	*Assistant*
Louise K. Campion	"
Albina R. LaPrise	"
Saba Haugh	"
Elise A. Carroll	"
Bessie B. Richardson	"
Maud Davis	*Branch Assistant*

Janitors

John F. Hogan William Barth

Library hours, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Reading-room open Sundays, 2 to 6 p. m., October to April, inclusive.

Report of the Secretary

Herewith is presented the forty-sixth report of the Board of Agents. It will be interesting to note the gradual broadening of the field covered by the Library. It is interesting, also, to note that the circulation increased, although our industrial enterprises were exceptionally busy, evidencing an increase in the population for which we must provide in the near future.

The Holmes Scholarship in the Sheffield Scientific School was awarded to George P. Laee.

The Holmes Scholarship in the class of 1918 was awarded to Thomas F. Moore.

LEWIS A. PLATT,
Secretary.

Report of the Librarian

To the Board of Agents of the Bronson Library:

The report of the work of the Library for the year ending December 31, 1915 is herewith submitted:

Books on hand January 1, 1915		97,067
Additions by purchase	6,023	
By gift	298	
Periodicals bound	181	
Connecticut documents	22	
United States documents	175	6,699
Total		103,766
Books worn out, lost, etc., adult	812	
Children's room	1,762	
School libraries	1,118	3,692
Books in Main Library and Branches, January 1, 1916		100,074

Deducting losses due to wearing out of books, and to other causes, the net increase of the Library was 3,007 volumes, or 746 more than in 1914. 3,852 children's books were bought, of which 1,834 were assigned to the school libraries, 727 to the branches, and 1,291 to the Children's Room of the main library.

Of adult books purchased, 318 were sent to the branch libraries, making a total of 2,879 volumes (about 47 per cent) bought for outside agencies. The outside library collections are small, and as they are entirely of a popular character, the books receive hard usage and wear out sooner. The cost per volume, however, is less than that of the books in the main library.

Volumes purchased were classified as follows:

	Adult	Juvenile
General works	37	4
Philosophy	32	1
Religion	30	85
Sociology	151	214
Language	19	0
Science	53	191
Useful arts	158	68
Fine arts	160	121
Literature	179	394
Travel	88	329
Biography	86	83
History	89	395
Fiction	1,089	1,967
Total	2,171	3,852

CIRCULATION

The circulation of the Library and its branches during 1915 (293,885) was only 229 volumes larger than in 1914. During the first six months of 1915, however, there was a gain of 9,648 in the circulation of the main library, and from July to December a loss of 7,659. This fluctuation illustrates the fact that in times of business prosperity, the reading of books declines. The industrial rush of the last six months has kept the men of the community working overtime, while even women and children have found paid employment for their time. A similar condition obtained after the industrial depression of 1908, the circulation of the Library gaining during the time of depression, and losing on the resumption of better business conditions.

Out of a total circulation of 293,885 volumes, 113,272 were issued from agencies outside the main library, that is, from the branch libraries, school libraries, and delivery stations.

The home use of children's books (144,325 volumes) was nearly 42 per cent of the entire circulation. 57,734 volumes were charged in the main building, and 48,407 in the school deposit libraries. The remainder (38,184) were issued from the branch libraries and the playgrounds and delivery stations.

Divided by months, the year's circulation as compared with that of the preceding year was as follows:

	1914	1915
January	14,997	17,324
February	14,483	16,880
March	16,965	19,378
April	15,053	15,847
May	13,271	14,409
June	13,595	14,174
July	15,506	14,647
August	15,196	14,151
September	12,374	11,588
October	14,774	13,855
November	15,849	14,518
December	16,564	13,812
Total	178,624	180,613
School libraries	40,369	48,407
Playgrounds	3,169	2,942
Waterville Branch	13,189	12,526
Brooklyn Branch	22,198	19,960
Rose Hill Branch	35,653	29,437
Chase Park House	338	.....
Waterbury Industrial School	116	.....
Total	293,656	293,885

Circulation by Classes in Main Library

January to December, 1915

	Adult	Per cent	Juvenile	Per cent
General works	5,513	4.49	691	1.20
Philosophy	1,101	.90	29	.05
Religion	983	.80	619	1.07
Sociology	2,509	2.04	2,504	4.34
Language	523	.43	22	.04
Science	1,923	1.56	1,395	2.42
Useful arts	4,270	3.47	1,006	1.74
Fine arts	3,466	2.82	2,689	4.66
Literature	5,278	4.30	3,426	5.93
Travel	2,083	1.70	3,683	6.38
Biography	2,483	2.02	2,320	4.02
History	1,893	1.54	5,041	8.73
Foreign	2,771	2.26	....	...
Pamphlets	437	.35	....	...
Fiction	87,646	71.32	34,309	59.42
Total	122,879	100.00	57,734	100.00

Largest monthly circulation at the main library was in March — 19,378. The largest circulation in any one day was 1,417 volumes, exceeding any previous record by 166 volumes.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The table below shows the increase in the number of questions referred to this department since the Information Desk was started in the Main Library in 1911.

1911	1,831
1912	2,463
1913	2,566
1914	2,932
1915	3,469

During the year 1915 an account was also kept of the reference questions looked up in the Children's Room of the Main Library, and in the Branch Libraries. The total number of these was 1,432, divided as follows: Children's Room, 664; Rose Hill, 641 (adult 518, juvenile 123); Brooklyn, 127; and Waterville, 44; making a total for the Library and its branches, of 4,901 reference questions for the year. 545 technical questions were included among these, and there were 134 telephone calls. Material was furnished for 69 debates.

Some idea of the variety of subjects brought to the attention of the reference librarian may be gained from the list of topics which follows:

What industries employ girls from 14 to 26 years of age?
How to prepare poultry for a show
Statistics of industries in the middle West
Number of hydrants in Waterbury
How to test alternating currents
Processes for coloring metals
Salaries of internal revenue collectors
Use of aluminum for shoe-lasts
List of factories in Connecticut and number employed in each
Construction of steel tanks
Manufacture of soap
Seal of McAlpine order of Scottish clans
Extrusion of metals
List of crockery factories
Altitudes around Waterbury
Where to buy manual training supplies

The Rose Hill Branch has had more reference work than the other branches because of the proximity of three large schoolhouses whose pupils are sent to the branch for special work. The collection of books is so small, however, that the librarian has to look up the subjects when she returns to the Main Library, sending over the volumes needed for consultation, on one of the regular delivery days.

Apart from answering requests for information, the Reference Department has charge of the collection of mounted pictures, estimated at 6,000 separate pieces, the pamphlet collection (nearly 50,000), and the musical scores deposited for the use of the public by Mr. Charles E. Farnham, one of our leading musical directors.

Reference Classes. The instruction of classes from the public schools, in the use of the card catalog, the more common dictionaries and encyclopedias, and other library aids, which was begun last year, was continued also in 1915. All the pupils of the Freshman class received an hour's instruction from 8:30 to 9:30 in the morning, the pupils coming in divisions by special appointment. On every Tuesday afternoon, two divisions of eighth grade pupils came to the Library, each pupil receiving an hour's instruction, for which several trained assistants gave their time. The result has justified the time spent, the children being evidently more inclined than formerly to an independent use of the catalog and the reference books.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The work of this department has been hampered by the resignation of Miss Myrtie Northrop, assistant Children's Librarian, who is now in charge of the High School Library. Miss Northrop continued her connection with us through the year by working one day per week in the Main Library; but finding that the school work required all her energies, she decided to resign her position in the Main Library, at the end of the year. Miss Northrop's experience of eight years in the Bronson Library enables her to coöperate with us effectively in our work for the High School, while her intelligent interest in the High School Library is helping to extend its use.

School Libraries. The sending of deposit libraries to the schoolhouses was continued through the year, with the addition of the Slocum School (6 rooms) to the list. A deposit library was also sent to the Chase Park Recreation House, making in all 23 schools (113 rooms) which were

furnished with books during 9 months in the year. By supplying not only the children but also their elder brothers and sisters with good reading, these little libraries are proving a fair substitute for delivery stations among the people living at a distance from the main building. Before the end of the first week in October all of the schoolhouses had received their quotas of books, carefully selected and furnished with catalogs and charging systems complete. Such promptness was made possible only by weeks of hard work during the summer when the 7,000 volumes returned from the schools were individually examined, the records checked, missing volumes accounted for, worn out books withdrawn and replaced by new ones, and the whole collection revised, regraded and made ready, as far as possible, for sending out in the fall.

Beginning the latter part of November, the Children's Librarian and her assistant spent four mornings in the week visiting the schools, mending the library books and making changes, sometimes at the teacher's request, combining this work with a special story-hour for the children. The results are seen in a better understanding between the Library and the schools, and a gradually increasing use of the books. The number of volumes sent to the deposit libraries was 7,634 and their circulation 48,407, a gain of 8,038 over the preceding year, and an average of seven issues for every volume sent. As the books were given out only once a week for nine months, their large circulation is evidence of intelligent selection and good management on the part of the Children's Librarian.

Playgrounds. Books were sent during July and August to the Sylvan Avenue, the South Main Street, and the Locust Street playgrounds, the circulation for the season being 2,942 volumes.

Christmas Exhibition. The exhibition of the Best Books for Children's Bookshelves was held as usual on the upper floor of the Library for a month before Christmas. It aroused less interest on the part of parents than of teachers, the latter consulting the finely illustrated volumes for ideas in decorative design. Primary teachers were interested in the books for story-tellers and in supplementary readers, so much so, that we have decided to add a special collection known as the Teachers Library to our reference library of children's books

CIRCULATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES, 1915

School	Books sent	Circulation
Barnard	170	1,068
Bishop Street	412	4,681
Bucks Hill	117	219
Bunker Hill	374	2,350
Chapel Street	259	1,286
Chase Park Recreation House	133	1,053
Driggs	1,214	6,354
East Mountain	98	308
Hamilton	140	1,343
Hendricken	412	2,569
Hopeville	192	1,257
Lincoln	150	1,030
Mary Abbott	165	1,201
Mill Plain	218	1,654
Newton Heights	47	82
Park Road	147	547
Reidville	120	379
Russell	502	4,119
Slocum	420	3,087
Sprague	589	3,342
Town Plot	392	2,251
Walsh	433	2,399
Webster	930	5,828
Total	7,634	48,407

BRANCH LIBRARIES

The effect of long working-hours on the patrons of the Library is noticeable in the branches as well as at the Main Library. At Waterville the circulation of books declined by 669 volumes; at Brooklyn 2,236; and at Rose Hill there was a loss of 6,216. The total circulation was 12,526 at Waterville; 19,960 at Brooklyn (adult 3,283; juvenile 16,677); and 29,437 (adult 10,862; juvenile 18,575) at Rose Hill. The decline was chiefly in the issues of children's books, the figures at Brooklyn showing a loss in circulation of 370 adult volumes and 1,866 juvenile; and at Rose Hill of 1,660 adult and 4,556 juvenile.

The Children's Librarian accounts for the decline by the fact that in many families both parents are working in the factories, so that the children are made responsible for the domestic work. Some of them make this explanation when returning their readers' cards for deposit at the branch Library.

The social work of the Rose Hill Branch was continued through the winter and spring as usual. A debating club, consisting of eleven boys and eighteen girls, discussed, among other subjects, Capital Punishment; Increase of the Army and Navy; Woman Suffrage; and the question of a site for the new high school. On February 6th the members and their friends were entertained by a mock trial held at the Library after the regular opening hours; and on March 16th there was a St. Patrick's Day entertainment, with an informal talk by Dr. F. J. Kilmartin.

Besides the Debating Club, there is a Boys' Reading Club which held eleven meetings from October to March; and a Girls' Reading Club whose meetings numbered twenty-three during the year. The two clubs were entertained on November 20th by an illustrated lecture on a trip to the Panama-Pacific exposition and Yellowstone Park, delivered by Mrs. Clarendon Nickerson of Clowes Terrace.

Social intercourse was arranged for by a dancing class of 32 boys and girls which met at the Library on Thursday evenings under Miss May Ammell as instructor. A $15.00 Victrola furnished the music and the lessons cost 15 cents each. This form of entertainment proved so popular that Miss Church the librarian, wishing to extend the privilege further, asked and received permission from the Board of Education to use the gymnasium of the Washington School for a weekly dance.

Sunday Opening. The Reading-Room and the Children's Room were open on Sunday afternoons from the first of October to the end of April, with an attendance of 6,983 readers (871 more than last year) about equally divided between children and adults. For the accommodation of those who use Sunday afternoon for special study, an extra assistant was detailed for reference work in the main Reading-Room.

Binding. 3,811 volumes were bound at an average cost of 37 cents each. 1,681 were adult books (including 181 periodicals), and 2,130 were juvenile.

The Museum. The Mattatuck Historical Society reported that there were 5,303 visitors to the combined collections of the Bronson Library and the Historical Society, during the year 1915. Hours of opening were six every day, including Sundays, from September to April, inclusive.

Gifts. Through the generosity of Mr. John Booth Burrall, the Library acquired one hundred volumes of the publi-

cations of the Yale University Press. The attention of the public was directed to the collection through a special exhibition, and the books were much admired for the beauty of their material make-up as well as for the value of their contents.

THE STAFF

There were more changes than usual in the Library staff during the year. Miss Elizabeth R. Frost resigned in January, 1915, after four years of notably successful work as reference librarian. Her place was temporarily supplied by Miss Marie K. Pidgeon from the New York State Library School, who returned to the State Library at the end of June. Miss Albina R. LaPrise was granted a year's leave of absence in order to study decorative design in the Art Normal School of Detroit. Miss Northrop accepted the position of High School Librarian, and Miss Edith Steele after seven years as an executive assistant abandoned the library profession and was married in October to Mr. Howard E. Gansworth of Buffalo, N. Y. A complete rearrangement of the work was made necessary by these resignations, but as notice was given some months in advance, readjustments were effected without inconvenience to the public.

With the permission of the Board of Agents, an apprentice class of four High School graduates was started during the summer, to provide assistants for the simpler routine work of the Library, the members of the class giving 28 hours a week during July and August in return for the instruction received. The course of study included instruction in the routine work of the loan and registration desks, the mending of books as well as their numbering, classification and arrangement on the shelves, and the use of the card catalog, the shelf list and the ordinary books of reference. Lessons were given on the periodicals taken by the Library, and a course of reading on the nature and aims of library work was suggested. Of the four students beginning the work, one dropped out after the first week, and one (Miss Eleanor Phelan) decided to take up kindergarten work. The two remaining, Miss Esther Liebeskind and Miss Lillian Landgren have been useful since October as junior assistants, giving serious and intelligent thought to their work.

New appointments were that of Miss Eleanor Edwards transferred from the position of cataloger to that of refer-

ence librarian, and Miss Ruth Judd of the Library School of Syracuse College who became cataloger. Miss Saba Haugh was made a special assistant to the Librarian, and Miss Mary J. Fagan took up the work of reference assistant. Miss Elise Carroll was given more time for the work of the Children's Room at the Main Library, and Miss Agnes Nolan was advanced from the substitute corps to a permanent position as desk assistant.

There were no serious illnesses among the members of the staff during the year, and as in former years, all gave their best efforts to the advancement of the interests of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN SPERRY,

Librarian.

Statement for the Year 1915

OTIS S. NORTHROP, TREASURER, *in account with*

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

DEBIT:

Balance on hand January 1, 1915	$	6,218.14
Received on Principal fund		6,100.00
Received from interest		12,922.98
Received from City of Waterbury (appropriation)		13,000.00
Received from money borrowed		6,000.00
Received from Helen Sperry, Librarian, fines, etc.		1,459.83
Received from Insurance refund		6.00
Received from telephone refund		.40
		$45,707.35

CREDIT:

Loans of principal	$	8,000.00	
Payment of money borrowed		6,000.00	$14,000.00

EXPENDITURES

Books	$	4,590.10	
Binding books		1,418.44	
Binding supplies		44.67	
Building supplies		144.80	
Car tickets		65.05	
Express and freight		179.20	
Electric repairs		32.49	
Electric supplies		3.20	
Fuel		697.56	
Furniture		207.10	
Interest		87.07	
Insurance		125.00	
Light		422.95	
Miscellaneous		172.57	
Periodicals		538.10	
Printing		33.25	
Postage		57.49	
Repairs		275.45	
Supplies		268.76	
Stationery		243.69	
Salaries		13,695.31	
Telephone		75.57	
Transportation		10.75	
Water tax		61.42	$23,449.99

Rose Hill Branch

Expense	$ 1.25	
Freight	2.50	
Furniture	110.71	
Lighting	35.50	
Miscellaneous	43.55	
Supplies	3.69	
Telephone	36.05	$ 233.25

Brooklyn Branch

Fuel	$ 23.30	
Furniture	64.25	
Light	25.20	
Miscellaneous	9.64	
Repairs	596.40	
Supplies	2.00	
Telephone	45.35	$ 766.14

WATERVILLE BRANCH

Furniture	$ 15.02	
Light	3.30	
Miscellaneous	13.92	
Rent	120.00	
Telephone	25.80	$ 178.04
Balance on hand January 1, 1916....		$ 7,079.93
		$45,707.35

Examined and found correct, January 19, 1916.

J. S. Elton,
Martin Scully,
B. H. Fitzpatrick,
} *Finance Committee.*

THE NEW YORK
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FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

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WATERBURY, CONN.

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1917

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FOR 1916

WATERBURY, CONN.
1917

THE HEMINWAY PRESS

OFFICERS OF
THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY
1916

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Mark L. Sperry, 21 Cooke St.	" " " 4, 1926
James E. Russell, 114 Willow St.	" " " 4, 1928
Otis S. Northrop, 51 Church St.	" " " 4, 1928

OFFICERS

Martin Scully	President
Lewis A. Platt	Secretary
Otis S. Northrop	Treasurer

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry	Librarian
Ruth L. Brown	Reference Librarian
Barbara H. Smith	Cataloger
Sarah N. Church	Children's Librarian
Agnes Nolan	Assistant
Mary J. Fagan	"
Louise K. Campion	"
Lillian E. Landgren	"
Saba Haugh	"
Elise A. Carroll	"
Esther Liebeskind	"
Maud Davis	Branch Assistant

Janitors

John F. Hogan — William Barth

Library hours, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Reading-room open Sundays, 2 to 6 p. m., October to April, inclusive.

Report of the Secretary

Amid the stress and turmoil of the war, it is not disagreeable to have our attention called to something typical of the calm and conservatism of the days we used to know and hope to experience again.

Examination of the Librarian's report shows that up to the present time the Library is performing its duty uninfluenced by the abnormal conditions, doing its best to maintain the standards of civilization and culture to which we have been accustomed.

The Holmes Scholarship in the Academic class of 1920 was awarded to Clarence J. Hylander.

Yours truly,

LEWIS A. PLATT,
Secretary.

Report of the Librarian

To the Board of Agents of the Bronson Library:

The report of the work of the library for the year ending December 31, 1916, is herewith submitted:

Books on hand January 1, 1916		98,274
Additions by purchase	6,983	
By gift	223	
Periodicals bound	242	
Connecticut documents	17	
United States documents	155	7,620
Total		105,894

Books worn out, lost, etc., adult	928	
Children's room	1,910	
School libraries	1,290	
Missing at inventory, 1915 and 1916	1,421	5,549
Books in Main Library and Branches, January, 1, 1917		100,345

Books bought numbered 960 more than in 1915. Of the total number 4,613 were children's books, of which about one half were assigned to the school libraries, and the rest were distributed among the children's rooms of the main library, and the branches.

CIRCULATION

Divided by months, the year's circulation as compared with that of the preceding year was as follows:

	1916	1917
January	17,324	14,210
February	16,880	13,913
March	19,378	15,426
April	15,847	13,174
May	14,409	12,521
June	14,174	12,011
July	14,647	11,945
August	14,151	12,264
September	11,588	10,669
October	13,855	11,880
November	14,518	12,710
December	13,812	11,907
Total	180,613	152,630
School libraries	48,407	47,347
Playgrounds	2,942	2,923
Waterville Branch	12,526	9,848
Brooklyn Branch	19,960	20,780
Rose Hill Branch	29,437	23,151
Deposit Stations	.....	916
Total	293,885	257,595

The statistics of circulation show the effect on the library of the speeding up of the industries of the city. During the depression of 1914-15 there was a gain of 36,535 volumes in the issues of the library, followed in 1916, when all our people were working, by a decline of 36,290.

An analysis of the figures shows that the class most affected was that of fiction, the decline in the issue of novels at the main library being 26,258 volumes; at Waterville, 2,270; at Brooklyn, 494; and at Rose Hill, 4,684; total, 33,706. The loss in all other classes at the branches, as well as the main library, was only 2,584.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The table below shows the increase in the number of questions referred to this department since the Information Desk was started in the main library in 1911.

1911	1,831
1912	2,463
1913	2,566
1914	2,932
1915	3,469
1916	5,627

The account for 1916 includes 1,166 questions looked up at the branches. A few representative topics on which information was asked are given below:

Cyanide process of electrolysis
Aniline dyes
Diagrams of gas burners
Folk lore of Russia
Budget making for public schools
In what battle and by what country were cannon first used?
Why is the White House painted white?
Steam winches
Japanese satsuma designs
Decision in the Danbury Hatters case
Eyelet machines
Uses of silicified wood
Map of Lincoln highway
Hats worn in 1860
How to tell fortunes by tea-grounds
History of Scovill Mfg. Co.
Recipe for gluten bread
Hair dressing in Queen Anne's time
How is the price of coal determined?
Methods of window trimming

Reference Classes. Instruction in the use of reference books was given to the freshman class of the Crosby High School (about 600 in all), members of which came to the library in divisions of fifteen each, at 8:30 every morning. A brief talk of from fifteen to twenty minutes covered the make-up and various parts of a book, the arrangement of contents, use of indexes, etc., and the information to be

found in dictionaries, cyclopedias, the World Almanac, and the Connecticut Register. Harper's Cyclopedia of United States History was used as an illustration of a special kind of reference book. Answers to ten questions based on these books were looked up by each pupil.

Typical Questions

Who is the present king of Denmark?
What newspapers are published in Meriden?
Under what heading do you find an account of rubber in the Encyclopedia Americana?
Find the name of the present laureate of England.
Where is Ypres? How do you pronounce it?
When did Florence Nightingale die?
Who are the Connecticut senators at Washington?
Which encyclopedia gives the best account of Waterbury?

On Tuesday afternoons, instruction in the use of the catalog and the position of the books on the shelves was given to the pupils of the eighth grades, the work continuing from October to the end of May.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The rush in the business world affected this department also, though not to the same extent. Fewer children's books were issued from the Main Library and at Rose Hill, but there were gains at Brooklyn and at Waterville. The proportion of children's books to the entire circulation was a little over 51 per cent instead of 42 per cent as in 1915, total circulation for the year being 132,691 volumes. 46,373 volumes were charged in the main building and 47,347 in the school deposit libraries. The remainder (38,971) were issued from the branch libraries and playgrounds.

Playgrounds. The city playgrounds closed two weeks earlier than usual, on account of the prevalence of infantile paralysis. Tuesday afternoon was "Library Day" at the Sylvan Avenue Playground, Wednesday afternoon at the South Main Street Playground, and Thursday at Locust Street. Stories were told after the books had been given out, and on two of the playgrounds (Sylvan Avenue and

Locust Street) the children were trained in a little play which they gave in costume before an audience of parents and friends. Books were also sent to the Cooke Street Playground, where they were charged by the supervisor. The total issue of books for the playgrounds was 2,923 volumes.

Good Book Week. The annual exhibition of children's books was held this year in conjunction with the "Safety First Juvenile Book Week", appointed for the week of November 28, by Franklin K. Matthews, Chief Scout Librarian of the Boy Scouts of America. The exhibition, of which books for boys formed an important part, was advertised by notices in the bulletins of several churches and in the daily papers, and by Boy Scout posters displayed in book stores and windows.

The enthusiasm of the Boy Scouts who performed guard duty during the week, and advertised the exhibition, among their friends, helped to make the affair a success. 305 people visited the exhibition, nearly five times the attendance of any other year, and two visitors came from out of town, namely: the librarian from Southington, and the superintendent of schools in Torrington. Several mothers made lists of books for their children to read during the year, and were interested in the collection of books for reading aloud that had been placed in the Children's Room.

The books suggested for the different grades and the collection of short stories for language work, appealed especially to teachers. Our loan collection of mounted pictures was a surprise to them.

Deposit Stations. The number of these varies from year to year, our experience proving that books left in charge of institutions are not usually well looked after nor much read.

At the request of the Western Union Telegraph and the Postal Telegraph managers, deposits of books were sent for the use of the messenger boys; and the Boys' Club library was helped out with some volumes from our juvenile collection. The most successful station was the one managed in co-operation with the North American Civic League for Immigrants, whose agent in Waterbury, Miss Lepidus, a Russian, educated in this country, helped us in the ordering of Russian books of which about seventy volumes were placed in the League rooms.

The selection included lives of American authors and statesmen, histories and geographies of the United States, and some popular novels, such as Uncle Tom's Cabin, which have been translated into Russian. There were also books on science. In response to a request for aids in learning the English language, 30 little volumes, published especially for the use of immigrants, were added. The circulation for two months was 171 volumes.

An honor was conferred on the Library, by the appointment of your Librarian as President of the Connecticut Library Association for the year ending February, 1916. The responsibilities of the office included the arrangement of programs and the engagement of speakers for the three meetings, of which the first was held at Jamestown, R. I., in conjunction with the state associations of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. An October meeting was held at Norfolk, and in February, the Association was entertained in Waterbury, where the Assembly Room of the Mattatuck Historical Society was kindly placed at our disposal.

Notable speakers on the occasion were Mr. Henry W. Kent, formerly librarian at Norwich, and now Secretary of the Metropolitan Museum of New York, Miss Hewins of Hartford, known everywhere as an authority on children's books; and Mr. William A. Speck, collector and curator of the rare Goethe relics at Yale University. His Honor, Mayor Scully, welcomed the members at the opening session, and during the noon recess escorted them personally through the new City Hall.

At the close of the meeting resolutions of thanks were passed, among which was a clause to the effect that "By reason of his cordial reception of the Association, His Honor, Mayor Scully, has won the hearty gratitude of the members of the Connecticut Library Association." Mayor Scully was thereupon elected one of the five vice-presidents of the Association for the ensuing year.

The Staff. The work of the library has been hampered by the loss of experienced assistants. Miss Eleanor Edwards, reference librarian for four years, resigned to accept a position in the New York Public Library; Miss Bessie Richardson, supervisor of the repair work, decided to study decorative design at the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn; Miss Ruth Judd, our cataloger, also resigned, and Miss Alice Gibby, a valuable assistant for twenty years, gave up her position to be married. Taken in conjunction with the five

resignations of the preceding year, it will be seen that a complete rearrangement of the work was made necessary.

Positions were filled, as far as possible, by residents of Waterbury; some promotions were made; and two young women, whose work as substitutes had proved useful, were given permanent positions. The spirit of helpfulness prevailed among all members of the staff, and the work of the library continued without apparent inconvenience to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN SPERRY,

Librarian.

Total Expenditures of the Silas Bronson Library During 1916

Books	$5,236.78	
Binding Books	1,632.94	
Binding Supplies	7.50	
Building Repairs	298.06	
Connecticut Library Association Expense	16.76	
Car Tickets	95.10	
Electric Lighting	398.06	
Electric Repairs	129.90	
Express and Freight	93.44	
Fuel	607.81	
Furniture	425.42	
Insurance	425.25	
Interest	25.00	
Laundry	21.26	
Miscellaneous	301.28	
Periodicals	597.38	
Pamphlets	.75	
Printing	96.82	
Pictures	2.28	
Repairs	454.21	
Salaries	13,168.77	
Supplies	220.73	
Stationery and Postage	277.91	
Telephone	29.03	
Water Tax	97.34	
		$24,659.78
Loans		$28,016.11

Brooklyn Branch

Electric Lighting	$17.70	
Electric Repairs	3.95	
Furniture	6.25	
Fuel	117.10	
Miscellaneous	10.91	
Repairs	20.45	
Supplies	19.35	
Telephone	36.50	
		$232.21

Rose Hill Branch

Electric Lighting	$29.60	
Fuel	92.65	
Furniture	16.39	
Miscellaneous	15.38	
Repairs	171.20	
Supplies	3.25	
Telephone	36.10	
		$364.57

Waterville Branch

Electric Lighting	$17.90	
Miscellaneous	13.94	
Rent	145.00	
Repairs	1.40	
Telephone	25.45	
		$203.69
Total		$53,476.36

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

29 '18 R

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

OF THE

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Forty-Ninth Annual Report

FOR 1917

WATERBURY, CONN.
1918

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1918

The Hemiway Press

OFFICERS OF

THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

1917

BOARD OF AGENTS

Charles Swenson, 170 Hill St.	Term expires July 4, 1918
Terrence F. Carmody, 2 Chestnut Ave.	" " " 4, 1918
Francis P. Guilfoile, 246 Robbins St.	" " " 4, 1920
John P. Kellogg, 144 Buckingham St.	" " " 4, 1920
Bernard H. Fitzpatrick, 201 Willow St.	" " " 4, 1922
Lewis A. Platt, 36 Buckingham St.	" " " 4, 1922
Martin Scully, 218 Sylvan Ave.	" " " 4, 1924
James S. Elton, 70 Church St.	" " " 4, 1924
Edward L. Seery, 32 Linden St.	" " " 4, 1926
Mark L. Sperry, 21 Cooke St.	" " " 4, 1926
James E. Russell, 114 Willow St.	" " " 4, 1928
Otis S. Northrop, 51 Church St.	" " " 4, 1928

OFFICERS

Martin Scully	President
Lewis A. Platt	Secretary
Otis S. Northrop	Treasurer

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry	Librarian
Edna M. Hull	Technical Librarian
Barbara H. Smith	Reference Librarian
Dorothy M. Stearns	Cataloger
Sarah N. Church	Children's Librarian
Agnes Nolan	Assistant
Louise K. Campion	"
Lillian E. Landgren	"
Saba Haugh	"
Elise A. Carroll	"
Marie G. Dunn	"
Maud Davis	Branch Assistant

Janitors

John F. Hogan — William Barth

Library hours, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Reading-room open Sundays, 2 to 6 p. m., October to April, inclusive.

Report of the Secretary

The outstanding facts of the present report relate to the reaction of the Library to the influence of the great war. An Industrial Department was opened in October to meet the requirements of an increased demand for books on business and mechanics, and the Library also did its part in the various government campaigns, especially in the national campaign for a fund to establish camp libraries for the soldiers. As a result, Waterbury contributed nearly $8,000 to the fund, exceeding the assigned quota by 56 per cent.

The following Holmes Scholarships were awarded:

College Class 1919—Oswald R. Jones
College Class 1920—Clarence J. Hylander
College Class 1921—William B. Moore
S. S. S. Class—Max Ruby

Yours truly,

LEWIS A. PLATT,
Secretary.

Report of the Librarian

To the Board of Agents of the Bronson Library:

The report of the work of the Library for the year ending December 31, 1917, is herewith submitted:

Books on hand January 1, 1917		100,345
Additions by purchase	6,951	
By gift	281	
Periodicals bound	205	
Connecticut documents	11	
United States documents	90	7,538
Total		107,883

Books worn out, lost, etc., adult	1,109	
Children's books	1,499	
School libraries	1,085	
Missing at inventory	566	4,259
Books in Main Library and Branches January 1, 1918		103,624

Books bought numbered 32 less than in 1916. Of the total number, 4,589, or 50 per cent, were children's books, of which about one half (2,324) were assigned to the school libraries and 964 to the Children's Room of the main library. The rest were given to the children's departments of the branch libraries.

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Otis S. Northrop, 51 Church St.	"	"	"	4, 1928

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Otis S. Northrop	Treasurer

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Edna M. Hull	Technical Librarian
Barbara H. Smith	Reference Librarian
Dorothy M. Stearns	Cataloger
Sarah N. Church	Children's Librarian
Agnes Nolan	Assistant
Louise K. Campion	"
Lillian E. Landgren	"
Saba Haugh	"
Elise A. Carroll	"
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Open shelves. Losses of books from the open shelves were largest in proportion to circulation at Brooklyn, where 194 were reported missing. At Rose Hill 51 volumes disappeared. The Children's Room of the Main Library lost 197 and other departments, 174. No books were lost at Waterville, a fact which speaks well for the character of the population.

Volumes purchased were classified as follows:

	Adult	Juvenile
General works	32	4
Philosophy	33	0
Religion	34	109
Sociology	118	212
Language	46	0
Science	67	145
Useful arts	229	93
Fine arts	108	85
Literature	201	301
Travel	49	286
Biography	85	87
History	283	296
Fiction	1,077	2,971
Total	2,362	4,589

CIRCULATION

Divided by months, the year's circulation as compared with that of the two years preceding was as follows:

	1915	1916	1917
January	17,324	14,210	13,023
February	16,880	13,913	13,126
March	19,378	15,426	16,225
April	15,847	13,174	13,541
May	14,409	12,521	12,954
June	14,174	12,011	13,196
July	14,647	11,945	12,684
August	14,151	12,264	13,375
September	11,588	10,669	10,756
October	13,855	11,880	12,885
November	14,518	12,710	13,058
December	13,812	11,907	11,535
Total	180,613	152,630	156,358
School libraries	48,407	47,347	48,704
Playgrounds	2,942	2,923	3,400
Waterville Branch	12,526	9,848	10,728
Brooklyn Branch	19,960	20,780	22,059
Rose Hill Branch	29,437	23,151	20,946
Deposit stations	.....	916	1,122
Total	293,885	257,595	263,317

Largest monthly circulation at the Main Library was in March—16,225. Largest day—February 24th—938.

Statistics show that the decline in circulation which was so noticeable in 1916, did not continue through 1917. The adult circulation remained practically the same, with an increase in the reading of history, and in the use of technical books, while at the same time there was a decline of 1843 in the issues of fiction, making a loss of 35,549 in the circulation of this class since the beginning of 1915. Indications are that the reading of war books is on the increase. Books on the causes of the war have waned in popularity, most people having made up their minds where to place the responsibility, but those relating the actual experiences of our soldiers on the firing line are of unfailing interest to the public.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The table below shows the increase in the number of questions referred to this department since the Information Desk was started in the Main Library in 1911.

Date	Adult	Juv.	Branches	Total
1911	1831	...	....	....
1912	2463	...	....	....
1913	2566	120	....	....
1914	2932	343	....	2686
1915	2037	664	768	3275
1916	4000	461	1166	3469
1917	5233	339	898	5627
				6470

Typical Questions

What is the maximum weight of packages sent to France?
Does the new pension law include Civil War widows?
Stories of the Civil War draft
Speed of a ship in Virgil's time
Picture of Halifax
Requirements for yeoman service in the U. S. navy
College cheers
Amount of our Revolutionary debt to France
Words of the Hymn of Hate
Trench pastimes
Text of the income tax law
Meaning of sabotage

Besides giving information on some thousands of special topics, the reference librarian answers miscellaneous questions on the use of the card catalog, furnishes information as to editions, prices and publishers, for people wishing to buy books, and assists in finding misplaced books and pamphlets. Occasions of this sort amounted to 2300 instances during the year 1917, but are not included in the general count.

The shelves assigned to the display of books on current topics are also under the care of the reference librarian.

Printed lists have been distributed in connection with small collections placed under such labels as Tales of Trench Warfare, War Time Economy, Food Conservation, War Poetry, War Manuals, First Aids in French, and Red Cross Work.

Pamphlets. Our pamphlet collection brings the Reference Department to date by furnishing information on current topics which is later than that contained in books. A popular section of it contains recent catalogs of colleges and schools.

Last summer superseded pamphlets were thrown away, and the space occupied by the remainder was found by measurement to be 3075 feet. Estimating an average of 67 pamphlets for each foot of shelf space, the total amounted in round numbers to 21,000 pieces, not including some thousands of unbound magazines.

The pamphlet literature connected with the great war is of unusual variety and interest. Publications of our national government and of our own state are received in large numbers, and we have also the pro-German literature published at the beginning of the war, as well as a French semi-monthly official bulletin. Through Sir Gilbert Parker of Canada, and also from official headquarters in Glasgow we receive an increasing number of English publications describing various phases of the war and written by well-known authors and statesmen, or by those having experience in fighting at the front. These contemporary accounts we are preserving carefully as they are likely to be of special value on account of their rarity later.

Pictures. The loan collection of these now numbers about 9,000 pieces, including a variety of subjects, among which portraits, famous paintings, holiday scenes, noted places, and kindergarten material are the most popular. During the school year 1916-17, the department lent 2,644 pictures to teachers.

THE INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT

There has been much interest here in books and periodicals relating to mechanics, and indications are that trade adjustments and economic rivalries after the war will more than ever turn the energies of our citizens to industrial occupations.

Report of the Secretary

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Yours truly,

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Secretary.

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Books bought numbered 32 less than in 1916. Of the total number, 4,589, or 50 per cent, were children's books, of which about one half (2,324) were assigned to the school libraries and 964 to the Children's Room of the main library. The rest were given to the children's departments of the branch libraries.

fense, and Mr. John H. Goss, of Scovill Mfg. Co., but none of these, owing to the pressure of other business, could devote any time to the active work. It was therefore with some anxiety that we awaited the outcome, but the people of the city responded with their usual generosity, the total amount raised ($7,662.35) being 56 per cent beyond the quota assigned to Waterbury. Congratulations on our good work were received from our library friends, from the State Library Commission and from the national campaign headquarters at Washington.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The issue of juvenile books was in the proportion of 52 per cent to the entire circulation of the library, instead of 42 to 45 per cent as in normal times. 49,975 volumes were charged in the Children's Department of the Main Library, and 48,704 from the school deposit libraries. The rest (39,733) were issued from branch libraries and playgrounds, making a total of 138,412, a gain of 5,721 volumes over the preceding year.

Good Book Week. Our annual exhibition of children's books suitable for Christmas gifts, was held in the Art Room during the week of December third, and was visited by 125 people, most of whom spent some time in examining the books and making lists for purchase through the local bookstore. Emphasis was placed, this year, on books costing less than one dollar, and on story-books for reading aloud to children. Booklets containing lists of the best children's books with details of prices and publishers were given away to all visitors. The Children's Librarian assisted in making selections, and a Boy Scout in the lower hall of the Library directed people to the exhibition. An outgrowth of this annual exhibition is the permanent collection of books for mothers and for teachers, which has been placed on the shelves of the Children's Room. The first division numbers 93 volumes of the best stories for reading aloud, and the second, numbering 112 volumes, contains teacher's plan books, volumes relating to holiday celebrations, books on colonial history, and short stories to be used in language work.

Playgrounds. A new playground was opened this year, under the management of the Chase Park Recreation House, and a lot on Liberty Street was substituted for the South

Main Street land which was claimed for manufacturing purposes. The total circulation of books on the weekly Library day at the five playgrounds was 3,400, a slight increase (77 volumes) over that of the preceding year. This is a good showing, considering that many of the older boys and girls were employed through the summer by the factories. The largest circulation (1368 volumes) was at Locust Street. Sylvan Avenue came next with an issue of 696 volumes.

The Staff. There were three resignations during the year. Miss Esther Liebeskind was married in August to Mr. Herman Franken. Miss Mary J. Fagan, a valuable assistant of eight years standing, resigned to accept the position of librarian of the Crosby High School, and Miss Ruth Brown, our reference librarian, accepted a position as secretary of the Vermont Library Commission, making in all, twelve resignations from the library force in three years. It is cause for congratulation that in spite of delays and readjustments the work of the Library has continued without adverse criticism on the part of the public. Much credit is due my assistants for their cordial cöoperation in all measures for the welfare of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,
HELEN SPERRY,
Librarian.

Statement for the Year 1917

OTIS S. NORTHROP, TREASURER, *in account with*

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

Debit:

Balance on hand January 1, 1917	$6,168.20	
Received on principal fund	76,550.00	
Received from interest	11,771.76	
Received from City of Waterbury (appropriation)	14,000.00	
Received from Helen Sperry, Librarian (fines, etc.)	1,985.36	
		$110,475.32

Credit:

Loans of principal	$73,100.00

EXPENDITURES

Salaries	$14,038.41
Books	6,428.89
Binding books	1,273.50
Binding supplies	273.79
Car tickets	149.10
Catalogue supplies	39.00
Electric lights	487.99
Electric repairs	257.08
Furniture	872.94
Freight	109.21
Fuel	722.00
Expense	22.18
Interest	116.67
Insurance	944.50
Laundry	22.45
Miscellaneous	199.80
Pamphlets	15.30
Periodicals	653.26

Printing	84.65		
Pictures	15.51		
Postage	31.96		
Repairs	680.63		
Stationery	315.07		
Supplies	417.05		
Telephone	63.18		
Water tax	93.06		
		$28,327.18	

Brooklyn Branch

Electric lights	$17.45		
Fuel	20.00		
Miscellaneous	11.68		
Telephone	36.25		
		$85.38	

Rose Hill Branch

Electric lights	$40.80		
Miscellaneous	3.09		
Telephone	36.60		
		$80.49	

Waterville Branch

Electric lights	$9.70		
Furniture	7.77		
Miscellaneous	22.51		
Rent	180.00		
Telephone	25.50		
		$245.48	
Balance on hand January 1, 1918		$8,636.79	
			$110,475.32

Examined and found correct January 24, 1918.

MARTIN SCULLY,
B. H. FITZPATRICK,
J. S. ELTON,
Finance Committee.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Annual report for the year ending December 31, 1917.
Population, 100,000 (military census, estimated 1917).
Free for lending; free for reference.
Central Library; 3 branches, 5 Delivery stations.
26 schools; 5 summer playgrounds.

Open 333 days; main library with 2 reading-rooms, 72 hours per week. Reading-rooms open also on Sundays, October to April, inclusive, 2 to 6 p. m.

100,345 volumes January 1, 1917; 6,951 added during the year by purchase; 382 added by gift; 205 added by binding; 4,259 volumes withdrawn.
Total number of volumes, January 1, 1918, 103,624.
Pamphlets, 21,000 (estimated).
Loaned for home use: Fiction, 169,649 volumes.
Loaned for home use: Total, 263,317 volumes.
Number of borrowers registered during year, 5,070.
Total number of registered borrowers, Library and Branches, 10,186. Registration period, two years.

Newspapers and periodicals, 325 titles; 363 copies.
Number using reading-rooms; no count kept.

FINANCIAL

Trust funds invested	$260,568.20

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand	$1,438.27
Income from invested funds	11,771.76
City appropriation	14,000.00
Fines and sales	1,985.36
	$29,195.39

EXPENSES

Salaries, library service	$12,198.41
Salaries, janitor service	1,940.00
Books	6,428.89
Periodicals	653.26
Binding	1,547.29
Fuel	742.00
Light	555.94
Repairs	937.71
Other expenses	3,735.03
	$28,738.53
Balance on hand	456.86
	$29,195.39

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX
AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

OF THE

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Fiftieth Annual Report

FOR 1918

WATERBURY, CONN.
1919

FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

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OF THE

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WATERBURY, CONN.

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Treasurer's Fiftieth Annual Report

FOR 1918

WATERBURY, CONN.

1919

OFFICERS OF

THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

1919

BOARD OF AGENTS

Francis P. Guilfoile, 246 Robbins St...	Term expires July 4, 1920
John P. Kellogg, 144 Buckingham St.....	" " " 4, 1920
Bernard H. Fitzpatrick, 201 Willow St.....	" " " 4, 1922
*John A. Coe, 493 Willow St.....	" " " 4, 1922
Martin Scully, 218 Sylvan Ave.....	" " " 4, 1924
James S. Elton, 70 Church St.....	" " " 4, 1924
Edward L. Seery, 32 Linden St.....	" " " 4, 1926
Mark L. Sperry, 21 Cooke St.....	" " " 4. 1926
James E. Russell, 114 Willow St.....	" " " 4, 1928
Otis S. Northrop, 51 Church St.....	" " " 4, 1928
Charles H. Swenson, 170 Hill St.	" " " 4, 1930
Terrence F. Carmody, 2 Chestnut Ave.	" " " 4, 1930

*—Succeeding Lewis A. Platt, deceased.

OFFICERS

Martin Scully.....President
Charles H. Swenson.....Secretary
Otis S. Northrop.....Treasurer

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry..... Librarian
Barbara H. Smith.....Reference Librarian
Dorothy M. Stearns .....Cataloger
Sarah N. Church.....Children's Librarian
Saba Haugh.....Executive Assistant
Louise K. Campion.....Assistant
Lillian E. Landgren..... "
Emmeline M. Barrett..... "
May G. Barrett..... "
Cornelia B. Doherty..... "
Maud Davis.....Branch Assistant

Janitors

John F. Hogan William Barth

Library hours, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Reading-room open Sundays, 2 to 6 p. m., October to April, inclusive.

Report of the Librarian

To the Board of Agents of the Bronson Library:

The report of the Library for the year ending December 31, 1918, is herewith submitted:

Books on hand January 1, 1918		103,624
Additions by purchase	5,174	
By gift	184	
Periodicals bound	220	
Connecticut documents	18	
United States documents	113	5,709
Total		109,333
Books worn out, etc, adult	747	
Children's books	1,187	
School libraries	732	
Missing at inventory	464	3,130
Books in Main Library and Branches January 1, 1919		106,203

Books bought numbered 777 less than in 1917 as fewer books were published in 1918 and editions were sometimes exhausted before our orders reached the publishers. Of the total number 3,072 were children's books, of which about one-half (1,523) were assigned to the school libraries, and the rest were distributed among the Children's rooms of the Main Library and the branches. Three hundred and thirty volumes were added to the Industrial Department at a cost of $681.32. A gift of 34 volumes of the Yale Press publications was received from Mr. John Booth Burrall, who also combined with Messrs. John H. Goss, William E. Fulton and James S. Elton in presenting the Library with a Portfolio of the European War, to be completed in nine folio volumes containing the rotogravure etchings published in the Mid-Week Pictorial of the New York Times. The

interest and value of such a pictorial history cannot be over-estimated and the Library is fortunate in attracting the consideration of these generous donors.

Open shelves. Losses from open shelves in the Library numbered 546, of which 350 were juvenile books. From the Industrial Department 6 books were missing as compared with 36 the year preceding. The department is now under constant supervision as the books are too valuable to be left unguarded.

Volumes purchased were classified as follows:

	Adult	Juvenile
General works	17	0
Philosophy	18	0
Religion	14	35
Sociology	101	147
Language	34	0
Science	94	146
Useful arts	276	40
Fine arts	73	133
Literature	127	271
Travel	30	149
Biography	52	90
History	276	208
Foreign	15	0
Pamphlets	72	0
Patent volumes	42	0
Fiction	861	1,853
Total	2,102	3,072

The pressure of war activities continued to affect the Library unfavorably in 1918. Four members of the staff resigned late in the summer, and the part-time workers, chiefly High School girls and boys, left as soon as the schools closed. It was with difficulty that enough workers could be secured to keep the Library and its branches open the usual number of hours, and much of the detail work was poorly done on account of the inexperience of the workers. In spite of this the circulation of the main Library gained slightly during the first nine months; but afterwards the influenza epidemic absorbed the attention of the community for some weeks and resulted in the

closing of the Library and its branches for three weeks. A net loss of 12,762 volumes from the circulation resulted from these conditions.

There were several cases of illness among the members of the staff or their families, but no loss of life. During the closing of the Library, the building was cleaned by the janitors, the arrears of detail work were brought up to date by the staff, and those who had sick friends or relatives spent their time in nursing. Emergency sewing at the Red Cross rooms was also helped along by the librarians. The Children's Librarian spent many hours in taking care of the little waifs who were gathered at the Girls' Club.

CIRCULATION

Divided by months, the year's circulation as compared with that of last year, was as follows:

	1917	1918
January	13,023	13,307
February	13,126	14,306
March	16,225	15,488
April	13,541	13,690
May	12,954	12,459
June	13,196	12,773
July	12,684	13,685
August	13,375	13,902
September	10,756	10,663
October	12,885	5,737
November	13,058	10,114
December	11,535	11,031
Total	156,358	147,155
School libraries	48,704	58,085
Playgrounds	3,400	2,068
Waterville Branch	10,728	10,866
Brooklyn Branch	22,059	17,459
Rose Hill Branch	20,946	14,338
Deposit stations	1,122	584
Total	263,317	250,555

Largest monthly circulation at the Main Library was in March—15,488. Largest day—February 23—1398.

The circulation of the Brooklyn and Rose Hill libraries is affected by their nearness to the Main Library which may be easily reached by a walk of from 10 to 15 minutes, so that many prefer to come to the Main Library where there is a wider choice of books. In estimating the work of these branches, however, it should be remembered that they offer a pleasant refuge from the streets for children in the poorer districts of the city, that much reading is done in the buildings, and that the librarian helps the young people in looking up special subjects connected with their school course. The Rose Hill Library has always combined social work with other activities, the reading and the dramatic clubs, and the dancing classes being superseded during the war by Red Cross knitting clubs and other war activities. The librarian reports that 59 people were taught to knit; among others a boy eleven years of age who broke the record on sweaters in that district.

Some of the graduates of the Rose Hill knitting club worked later in the junior auxiliaries of the high schools and the churches. Members of this club were also interested in the Children of America's Army of Relief, and had a mite box from which $7.35 was sent to the headquarters in Boston.

Eight scrapbooks filled with short stories, jokes and cheerful pictures, were made by the children for the wounded soldiers, and were sent to the Walter Reed Hospital, in Washington, D. C.

Circulation by Classes in Main Library.

	Adult	Per Cent	Juvenile	Per Cent
General Works....	4,251	4.03	495	1.19
Philosophy	1,047	.99	8	.02
Religion	855	.81	450	1.08
Sociology	1,623	1.54	2,312	5.54
Language	600	.57	4	.01
Science	1,440	1.37	1,303	3.12
Useful Arts	4,212	3.99	883	2.11
Fine Arts	2,262	2.15	1,629	4.00
Literature	5,030	4.77	2,553	6.12
Travel	1,492	1.42	2,349	5.61
Biography	2,035	1.93	1,430	3.43
History	6,576	6.24	2,742	6.57
Foreign	2,327	2.21		
Pamphlets	536	.51		
Fiction	71,119	67.47	25,592	61.20
Total	105,405	101.00	41,750	100.00

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The work of the Reference Department was continued as usual. Debating clubs in schools and churches were suspended during the war, but the Library entered into closer relations with the teachers of English in the High Schools, compiling at their request five lists for required and suggested reading for the Wilby High School, and four for the Crosby School. The first mentioned were also used in the new vocational school. Help was given in connection with oral essays, the choice of topics being left to the pupils with suggestions from the librarian. These essays consisted of talks from three to five minutes in length on current topics and on lives of noted men or women, and now and then humorous anecdotes were selected for repetition.

Special topics and miscellaneous questions answered in the Main Library numbered 8,845, of which 1,139 were brought to the Industrial Department. The subjects in which readers were interested were, as might be expected, much influenced by the progress of the war.

Scovill Deposit Station. Early in November we sent a collection of popular literature for the use of the workers at Scovill's, the books being issued under the direction of Miss Edith Phail, the factory librarian. The circulation for the two months was very satisfactory, amounting to 584 volumes issued on a basis of less than three hundred. For special reference work at the factory, 315 volumes on a surprising variety of subjects were borrowed and circulated. Besides mechanical subjects, books were asked for on women's place in labor, vocational guidance, hygiene, magazine publishers, travel, garages, immigration laws, methods of packing goods, elementary chemistry, textbooks in mathematics, and how to raise chickens.

Supplementing the Americanization work of the factory, the Library extended its hospitality to groups of foreigners who visited our institution under the leadership of their teachers. Each group was shown the location of the books in foreign languages and was assisted in the selection of simple books on civics, biography, history, and geography, or in case these were found to be too difficult, simple readers with information on American customs and ideals were given them. Methods of charging and returning the books were illustrated and the reference librarian was introduced as a friend to be called on in case of need.

About one hundred foreigners were introduced in this way, and many others learned through them to come to the Library for help.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT

Patrons of the Library often express their appreciation of this department, and agree in saying that our collection of books is unusually good. One newcomer to the Library seemed surprised that books could be taken for home study, and said that he had always doubted whether public libraries were worth the money that they

cost, but he was now beginning to feel that they were worth while. The Industrial Department is much used for reference, and it is not uncommon for a reader to spend two or three hours over one volume. Much has been learned through suggestions from patrons of the department, and the collection is growing in value. Attendance during the year was 6,645, and the number of books taken for home use, 2,862. Assistance in looking up special subjects was given in 882 cases, and there were 257 questions as to minor matters. We have planned later, to make a collection of trade catalogs for this room, as these are useful to mechanics and can be obtained in many cases as gifts.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The Children's Librarian reports work with the schools as follows:

	1916-17	1917-18	Gain
Schools receiving library books....	26	28	2
Schoolrooms receiving library books	142	161	19
Books of fiction sent to schools....	5,384	6,334	950
Books of non-fiction sent to schools	4,201	4,802	601
Total books sent to schools...	9,585	11,136	1,551

Circulation

Circulation of fiction.....	31,464	36,704	5,240
Circulation of non-fiction.....	17,240	21,381	4,141
Total circulation	48,704	58,085	9,381
Schools visited	20	26	6
School visits made.....	61	53	

Mulcahy School and St. Joseph's Parochial School were new on our list. Both had seven rooms to which we sent books; Mill Plain and Slocum had two new rooms this year, while Columbia, St. Margaret's, Walsh and Webster schools had one new room each, making a total of twenty-

two new rooms, but Driggs, Sacred Heart and St. Thomas' had each one room less receiving books, making a total gain of nineteen rooms.

Stories were told by the children's librarian in the lower grades, while in the higher grades a three or four-minute talk was given, in which attention was called to certain volumes sent to those rooms. This awakened interest in the books and was a point of contact between teacher and librarian. Stories of heroism and especially books upon the Crusades were read this year as never before.

To our loan collection of mounted pictures many historical subjects were added during the year; also pictures by famous artists. This collection now numbers over 9,000 pieces, and is especially valuable to the teachers of the kindergarten and lower grades, and also to those who are teaching history or geography.

Respectfully submitted,

SARAH N. CHURCH,
Children's Librarian.

November 21, 1918.

WAR SERVICE

The Library has pursued its chosen line of distributing the literature of the various war campaigns. The main hall has blazed with posters all the year and thousands of leaflets have been distributed from the tables in the delivery room. The garden literature printed appropriately in grass green by the National Food Garden Committee has flowed out to the public in a never-ending stream. The United States Department of Agriculture developed an imaginative strain and furnished us Farmers' Bulletins decorated with idyllic pictures of fruits and vegetables and inspiring rural scenes, while the Storrs Agricultural School told how to raise everything that could be raised in Connecticut.

Very popular were the little collections of war recipes published by the leading food-product companies of the United States. There were seventeen different firms that sent us on application, from 25 to 30 copies of their publications which attracted much attention by their gaily decorated covers.

We made a special effort to collect and preserve the posters which accompanied the various drives, and apparently the emotional appeal of such pictures as "My daddy bought me a bond," "My soldier" and the "Red Cross nurse, the greatest mother in the world," was very successful.

Although during the Hoover campaign the Library gave away some thousands of leaflets containing war receipts, the demand for books remained undiminished, and we had to furnish innumerable cook books, such as Amelia Doddridge's Liberty Recipes; Mary Elizabeth's War Time Recipes; Better Meals for Less Money, by Mary Green; Neil's Economical Cookery; Partridge's Wheatless and Meatless Days; Handy's War-time Breads and Cakes; Taylor's War Bread; and Stockbridge's Liberty Cook Book.

Books relating to military science were in demand, but not as much as in cities nearer the camps. Inquiries at the reference desk were also influenced by the war.

The Woman's Branch of the Council of Defence was a valuable aid in the March drive for books for the soldiers. Mrs. F. S. Chase, the head of the local council, arranged to have all classes in the community represented on the committees and made the first appointments.

A plan for advertising the campaign and for getting the books to the Library was worked out by the Rotary Club and the Boy Scout organization, and the newspapers detailed their best reporters to provide the literary "punch." The Boy Scouts combined a book drive with their house to house campaign for the sale of thrift stamps, distributing leaflets in all parts of the city, and announcing the day and hour when books would be called for. The President of the Rotary Club planned a remarkable demonstration of efficiency for his organization, making it responsible for supplying automobiles enough to visit every district of the city, and get the books to the Library within the space of two hours.

At 3:30 o'clock on the afternoon of the drive there stretched along the west side of the green a line of 60 automobiles with four Boy Scouts behind each car, with toes to the sidewalk. At 4 o'clock the Mayor fired a pistol shot, the boys scrambled to their seats and the cars rushed off in a cloud of dust.

It was a whirlwind drive. In less than ten minutes the first car arrived at the Library headed by the president of the Rotary Club, riding a beautiful horse and carrying a megaphone. For the next two hours avalanches of books poured in, the Boy Scouts unloading them from the cars and passing with them through the basement in a continuous procession. The bundles of books were hurled on the floor by the advancing column or came sliding down the ways into the coal bin which had been lined with clean paper for the occasion. Occasionally a package burst and books flew in all directions. The four strong men who were detailed to make symmetrical piles of the donations, worked with coats off and faces streaming with perspiration, while the librarian acted as traffic manager, diverting the stream of boys to different sections of the cellar. It was not an unmixed affliction when some of the automobiles stuck in the mud in the outskirts of the city, as it gave us a much needed rest, and allowed the Scouts to enjoy themselves by sliding down the planks that led from the basement windows

to the cellar. After the drive was over an estimate with the aid of a yard stick, placed the cubic contents of the piles at 27,000 volumes, but the actual count made later was 25,441 which included some hundreds of volumes gleaned from porches and doorsteps which had been overlooked in the wild flight of the motor cars.

Every morning for the next three weeks two of us worked in the cellar sorting the books into piles of three grades, at the rate of two or three a minute, including the cutting of strings and removing of wrappings.

Volunteers furnished by the Council of Defense and the Crosby High School prepared the volumes for packing, the work being carried on in the cellar along whose walls were ranged the tombstones rescued from the old cemetery on which the present library building stands. The weeping willows, death heads and elegiac poetry carved on these monuments of the first families failed, however, to affect the spirits of the composite Americans of the present day.

There was some trouble in getting packing boxes for the books, but the War Bureau sent a truck which made the rounds of the stores collecting empty boxes for us. Free transportation to the station was also provided and on the 11th of May the first shipment of 7,000 volumes was forwarded to the dispatch offices for our soldiers overseas.

From time to time other consignments have been forwarded, the total to date being 17,494.

In the campaign of the United War Service organizations, the Library was represented on the executive committee, on the team of Four Minute speakers and in various other ways.

We are now helping the Americanization committee of the Scovill Mfg. Co., and are ready to do our part in the numerous after-the-war activities as they come up for consideration. Being freed from the disturbing influences of the military draft and labor shortage, we feel justified in looking forward to a year of increased activity and usefulness.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN SPERRY,
Librarian.

Statement for the Year 1918

Otis S. Northrop, Treasurer, in account with

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

Debit:

Balance on hand January 1, 1918.....	$8,636.79	
Received on principal fund.....	13,000.00	
Received from interest.....	13,288.18	
Received from City of Waterbury (appropriations)	15,000.00	
Received from Helen Sperry, Librarian (fines, etc)	2,123.54	
		$52,048.51

Credit:

Loans	$17,862.30	

EXPENDITURES

Books	$5,054.29	
Binding books	1,238.27	
Binding supplies	268.12	
Car tickets	134.42	
Electric repairs and supplies	73.52	
Expense	141.56	
Furniture	137.22	
Fuel	860.77	
Freight and transportation	50.14	
Lighting	499.25	
Miscellaneous	229.72	
Pamphlets and periodicals..	624.60	
Printing	130.25	
Repairs	606.91	
Supplies	196.28	
Stationery and postage....	352.70	
Salaries	15,149.34	
Substitutes	76.82	
Telephone	44.23	
Water tax	64.55	
		$25,932.96

Brooklyn Branch

Fuel	$256.03	
Lighting	34.16	
Miscellaneous	16.67	
Repairs	6.62	
Telephone	27.70	
		$341.18

Rose Hill Branch

Fuel	$153.43	
Lighting	22.41	
Repairs	6.36	
Miscellaneous	1.61	
Telephone	27.10	
		$210.91

Waterville Branch

Lighting	$13.57	
Miscellaneous	19.86	
Rent	180.00	
Telephone	19.05	
		$232.48

Balance on hand January 1, 1919	$7,468.68	
		$52,048.51

Examined and found correct January 24, 1919.

J. S. ELTON,
B. H. FITZPATRICK,
MARTIN SCULLY,
Finance Committee.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Annual report for the year ending December 31, 1918.
Population, 100,000 (military census, estimated 1917).
Free for lending; free for reference.
Central Library; 3 branches, 1 Delivery station.
28 schools; 5 summer playgrounds.
Open 333 days; main library with 2 reading rooms, 72 hours per week. Reading rooms open also on Sunday, October to April, inclusive, 2 to 6 p. m.
103,624 volumes January 1, 1918; 5,174 added during the year by purchase; 315 added by gift; 220 added by binding; 3,130 volumes withdrawn.
Total number of volumes January 1, 1919, 106,203.
Pamphlets, 25,000 (estimated).
Loaned for home use: Fiction, 164,058 volumes.
Loaned for home use: Total, 250,555 volumes.
Number of borrowers registered during year, 5,070.
Total number of registered borrowers, Library and Branches, 10,186. Registration period, two years.
Newspapers and periodicals, 199 titles; 27 extra copies.
Number using reading rooms; no count kept.

FINANCIAL

Trust funds invested	$259,586.79

RECEIPTS

Income from invested funds	13,288.18
City appropriation	15,000.00
Fines and sales	2,123.54
	$30,411.72

EXPENSES

Salaries, library service	$12,974.34
Salaries, janitor service	2,175.00
Books	5,054.29
Periodicals	624.60
Binding	1,238.27
Fuel	860.77
Light	499.25
Repairs	680.43
Other expenses	2,610.58
	$26,717.53
Balance on hand	3,694.19
	$30,411.72

FIFTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

OF THE

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

[illegible]

Treasurer's Fifty-First Annual Report

FOR 1921

[illegible]

[illegible]

1920

FIFTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

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BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Fifty-First Annual Report

FOR 1919

WATERBURY, CONN.

1920

OFFICERS OF

THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

1920

BOARD OF AGENTS

Bernard H. Fitzpatrick, 201 Willow St.	Term expires July 4, 1922
John A. Coe, 493 Willow St.	" " " 4, 1922
Martin Scully, 218 Sylvan Ave.	" " " 4, 1924
James S. Elton, 70 Church St.	" " " 4, 1924
Edward L. Seery, 32 Linden St.	" " " 4, 1926
Mark L. Sperry, 21 Cooke St.	" " " 4, 1926
James E. Russell, 114 Willow St.	" " " 4, 1928
* Frederick S. Chase, 165 Grove St.	" " " 4, 1928
Charles H. Swenson, 170 Hill St.	" " " 4, 1930
Terrence F. Carmody, 2 Chestnut Ave.	" " " 4, 1930
John P. Kellogg, 144 Buckingham St.	" " " 4, 1932
W. S. Jones, 9 Cliff St.	" " " 4, 1932

*—Succeeding Otis S. Northrop, deceased.

OFFICERS

Martin Scully	President
Charles H. Swenson	Secretary
Edwin C. Northrop	Treasurer

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry	Librarian
Lillian E. Landgren	Reference Librarian
Saba Haugh	Industrial Department
Kathleen Ainey	Executive Assistant
Sarah N. Church	Children's Department
Ellen E. Yoder	Children's Department
Mary E. Van Horn	Cataloger
Louise K. Campion	Registration Desk
Cornelia B. Doherty	General Assistant
Emelyn M. Barrett	" "
May G. Barrett	" "
Maud Davis	" "
Frances C. Minor	" "

Janitors

John F. Hogan — William Barth

Library hours, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Reading rooms open Sundays, 2 to 6 p. m., October to April, inclusive.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The Board of Agents suffered the loss of two of its officers by death during last year.

Mr. Lewis A. Platt, Secretary, died January 21, 1919. He became a member of the Board November 25, 1890 and had served as Secretary 25 years, having been elected to this position July 10, 1893, to succeed Mr. Theodore I. Driggs, the first Secretary.

The following minute on his death was adopted by the Board: "Resolved, that in the death of Mr. Lewis A. Platt, which occured January 21, 1919, at Miami, Florida, this Board has lost a valued member and officer, who had served as its Secretary for many years, faithfully and capably. His death is deeply regretted."

Mr. Otis S. Northrop, Treasurer, died July 20, 1919. He became a member of the Board December 12, 1910, but had served as Treasurer since May 6, 1903, having succeeded Mr. Frederick J. Kingsbury, the first Treasurer.

The Board adopted the following minute on his death: "Resolved, that we deeply regret the death of Mr. Otis S. Northrop, a member and for many years Treasurer of this Board, which occurred at Waterbury on the 20th day of July, 1919, and that we hereby record our appreciation of the ability, integrity and unselfish devotion with which he discharged the duties of his office."

The present values (estimated) of the Library property on Grand Street may be of interest.

Lot, a gift from the City in 1891,.....	$200,000
Building	125,000
Furniture and fixtures	25,000
Books	125,000
Total	$475,000

Following are the holders of the Holmes Scholarships at Yale University:

Academic Dept.	Class	
	1920	Clarence J. Hylander
	1921	William B. Moore
	1922	No applications
	1923	Abe S. Brown
Sheffield Scientific School		
	1921	Richard I. Williams

Respectfully,

CHARLES H. SWENSON,
Secretary.

March 31, 1920.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

To the Board of Agents of the Bronson Library:

The report of the Library for the year ending December 31, 1919, is herewith submitted:

Books on hand January 1, 1919		106,203
Additions by purchase	7,200	
Additions by gift	105	
Periodicals bound	203	
Connecticut documents	23	
United States documents	126	7,657
Total		113,860
Books worn out, etc., adult	1,022	
Children's books	1,783	
School libraries	157	
Missing at inventory, Main library	187	
Missing at inventory, Branches	519	3,668
January 1, 1920		110,174

Books bought numbered 2,026 more than in 1918. Of the total number 4,248 were children's books, of which 2,524 were assigned to the school libraries. The average cost of these was 87 cents per volume, an increase of about 27 cents over pre-war prices. 384 volumes were bought for the Industrial Department at an average of $1.55 each.

Printers strikes, shortage of paper and high cost generally caused serious delays in publishing important books, and editions were so small that the supply was sometimes exhausted before our orders reached the publishers.

Open shelves. Losses from open shelves in the entire library system numbered 884, of which 617 were juvenile books. The Brooklyn Branch had the largest shortage (392 volumes) but the report covers two years as the inventory was not taken in 1918. The number missing at Rose Hill was 141, but at Waterville whose population has a high record for integrity, no books were lost, strayed or stolen.

As there is no interruption of service to the public during the taking of inventory, the figures are subject to error and require revision through the year. During the past year 169 volumes reported missing in previous inventories were found, so that the actual number to be deducted from the total of the library is reduced from 884 to 715.

Volumes purchased were classified as follows:

	Adult	Juvenile
General works	44	2
Philosophy	34	0
Religion	20	48
Sociology	141	251
Language	65	0
Science	71	160
Useful arts	316	139
Fine arts	68	155
Literature	316	309
Travel	53	200
Biography	97	189
History	172	243
Foreign	130	0
Pamphlets	18	0
Patent volumes	47	0
Fiction	1,360	2,552
Total	2,952	4,248

CIRCULATION

Divided by months, the year's circulation as compared with that of four preceding years was as follows:

	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
January	17,324	14,210	13,023	13,307	14,090
February	16,880	13,913	13,126	14,306	13,825
March	19,378	15,426	16,225	15,488	16,229
April	15,847	13,174	13,541	13,690	14,534
May	14,409	12,521	12,954	12,459	13,577
June	14,174	12,011	13,196	12,773	12,469
July	14,647	11,945	12,684	13,685	14,561
August	14,151	12,264	13,375	13,902	13,956
September	11,588	10,669	10,756	10,663	12,261
October	13,855	11,880	12,885	5,737	13,953
November	14,518	12,710	13,058	10,114	14,300
December	13,812	11,907	11,535	11,031	14,718
Total	180,613	152,630	156,358	147,155	168,473

School libraries	48,407	47,347	48,704	58,085	53,253
Playgrounds ..	2,942	2,923	3,400	2,068	3,144
Waterville Br'ch	12,526	9,848	10,728	10,866	12,685
Brooklyn Br'ch	19,960	20,780	22,059	17,459	21,954
Rose Hill Br'ch	29,437	23,151	20,946	14,338	19,343
Deposit stations	.....	916	1,122	584	3,258
Total	293,885	257,595	263,317	250,555	282,110

The increase in circulation over that of 1918, (31,555 v.) shows that the library is recovering from the effects of the war. It is interesting to know that during the business depression of 1914-15, when there were large numbers of unemployed workmen, the circulation gained over 36,000, but in 1916, when all our people were busy there was a decline of 36,290. In 1917, there was a slight gain, but in 1918 the closing of the library on account of influenza caused another decline of 12,762. We are now within 11,775 volumes of the circulation of the banner year 1915 (293,885 vols.) and with favorable conditions may hope to catch up entirely during the coming year.

An analysis of the figures shows that the largest gains at the main library were from September to December inclusive; also that there was an increase in the circulation of the three branch libraries and the playgrounds, but a decrease in the issues of the school libraries. The statistics for the latter, cover the period from October 1918 to June 1919, and include therefore the decrease due to the epidemic of 1918.

Circulation by Classes in Main Library

	Adult	Per Cent	Juvenile	Per Cent
General Works.	3,988	3.29	664	1.40
Philosophy	1,622	1.34	14	.03
Religion	931	.77	566	1.20
Sociology	1,874	1.55	2,579	5.44
Language	576	.48	8	.02
Science	1,768	1.46	1,565	3.30
Useful Arts.....	5,092	4.21	1,203	2.54
Fine Arts	2,780	2.29	1,953	4.12
Literature.....	6,081	5.02	2,737	5.78
Travel	1,950	1.61	2,935	6.20
Biography	2,327	1.92	1,436	3.03
History	4,143	3.42	3,221	6.80
Foreign	2,591	2.14		
Pamphlets	597	.49		
Fiction	84,785	70.01	28,487	60.14
Total	121,105	100.00	47,368	100.00

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The work of this department was continued as usual, with an increase of 1,572 in the number of topics presented; the total for the year being 7,465. Many of the questions related to the work of the schools whose pupils are sent to the library for special study. The books on the lists of required reading for the Crosby and Wilby High Schools were in constant requisition. There were 695 volumes on the Crosby school list in which poetry, biography and war books were well represented, while the non-fiction list of the Wilby school was evenly divided among books relating to history, travel and outdoor life, poetry, drama, science, biography and war books. For this school there was also a short-story list of 259 titles. The amount of reading required of any one pupil was not large enough to be discouraging and much latitude of choice was allowed. A variation from the usual routine was made by one of the teachers who thought it best not to compile a list of required reading, but encouraged the children to make their own selections subject to her revision.

Requests for information from the general public have exhibited a new tendency since the war. Debates of all

sorts have gone out of fashion, both at the schools and among the church clubs, but there is a great demand for plays suitable for amateur performance. Our pamphlet collection is well supplied with these, and we are ready at a moment's notice to supply monologues, dramatized fairy tales, dramatized scenes from novels, historical plays, moral plays, holiday plays and dramas of school life, as well as tableaux and pageants. Institutions that have used the collection are the Second Congregational Church, the Girls' Friendly Society of Saint John's Church, Saint Margaret's School, the Wilby High School, and Notre Dame Convent, the latter being more particularly interested in pageants.

That subjects brought to the information desk were influenced by the season of the year was illustrated by the demand in August and September for road maps, not only of New England, but of regions as far away as Pennsylvania, the White Mountains, and Minnesota. College catalogs were consulted by intending students; the housekeepers asked for books on canning and pickling, and now and then a little interest was manifested in distilling processes and the making of fruit wines.

Questions out of the ordinary line related to the color of eggs laid by Wyandotte chickens, how to address a letter to Waterville, the origin of collars, how to write a "wishing" letter, that is, a letter wishing one a Merry Christmas, and last but not least a list of the famous people in Waterbury.

Picture collection. Our collection of magazine illustrations, portraits, etc. grows from year to year and now numbers about 10,000. The pictures are used by study clubs, by Kindergarten teachers, reporters and others. The number circulated during the year was 617, an average of somewhat more than two a day.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT

Report of the Librarian

The librarian of the Industrial Department reports as follows: The year 1919 showed a steady increase in the use of this department. Attendance for the year was 7,431—circulation 4,092—and reference questions 1,090, the gains on the three points being respectively 786-1,230 and 350. The largest attendance on any one day was 56, and the

largest circulation was 37. The department was most used in the afternoons and evenings. Sunday readers averaged 17, which is as many as the room can accommodate at any one time. Many more subjects were looked up, more books were given out and more people used the room than in 1918.

As people became interested in new subjects, new books were bought, the demand being sometimes anticipated. The subjects people were especially interested in during the year were real estate, blue prints, traffic management of railways, steel, telephones, notaries public, accounting, wireless telegraphy and woodworking. There was the usual demand for books on brass, automobiles, shorthand, machine shop work, etc.

We looked up carefully the cold rolling of steel and the cold drawing of steel for men at a local factory. To another factory we sent a list of every article and book to be found about lacquering so that the men from the factory could consult the list and come to the Library for the books. The officials of the factories are very appreciative often sending letters of thanks for special help given. Wire drawing was another subject on which we were asked many questions. What lubricants were used in wire drawing, how the diamond dies used for drawing the wire were made, and other questions pertaining to the manufacture of wire were answered.

The department has not been greatly used by teachers, but those that do use it find much to help and interest them in their individual subjects. Pupils from the woodworking courses come continually for new books on furniture making. The teachers of drawing and sheet metal work have found many answers to problems in the department. By far the greatest number of pupils getting help are those who are either studying at home or taking correspondence courses. Recently, we looked up carefully and recommended books to be used as texts for a complete course in battery engineering. This course was much appreciated by the young man studying it. Others want special kinds of mathematics or shop work to help them get ahead. Boys of fifteen or sixteen find books on aeroplanes and wireless telegraphy of great interest. Every day they are asking how to make induction coils, transformers, or some such thing.

We have begun to get the railroad men interested in the library and intend to do everything possible during the

coming year to hold their interest and to attract more of the men.

The following subjects are typical of those submitted daily in the technical room.

New methods of testing sand for concrete
Manufacture of fire bricks
How to tighten a crow foot brace on a steam boiler
Plans for commercial garages
Heat at which graphite burns
Delco system of wiring a 1912 Hudson car
Use of low grade fuels as gas producers
Strength of brass tubings
Making lead plate storage batteries
Machines for extruding solder
Ammonia compressors
Sprinkler systems
Montreal stock market quotations
Form for a quit claim

Scovill Deposit Station. The Scovill Mfg. Co. has a flourishing library under the direction of a trained librarian who reports a circulation of 15,488 volumes, chiefly trade catalogs or magazines, among the factory employees. A total of 3,873 is credited to the Bronson Library which supplied 504 volumes of popular literature and also lent 615 volumes for special reference work. The Company furnishes transportation and pays for all lost books.

Our relations have been mutually adavantageous as we sometimes ask for temporary loans of books or magazines from the Scovill library, or require information on technical matters for our patrons.

Respectfully submitted,

SABA M. HAUGH

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The Children's Librarian reports work with the schools from Sept. 1, 1918 to June 1919, inclusive, as follows:

	1917-18	1918-19	Gain	Loss
Schools receiving library books	28	29	1	
Schoolrooms receiving library books	161	158		3
Books of fiction sent to schools	6,334	8,976	2,642	
Books of non-fiction sent	4,802	6,850	2,048	
Total books sent to schools	11,136	15,826	4,690	
Circulation of fiction	36,704	33,981		2,723
Circulation of non-fiction	21,381	19,272		2,109
Total circulation	58,085	53,253		4,832
School visits made	53	19		

A loss of 4,832 in the circulation was due to the closing of the schools during the influenza epidemic in the fall. Even with that loss, the circulation was greater than that of any past year, with the exception of 1917-18.

That the work is growing steadily on the whole is shown in the fact that since 1904 the number of schools served has increased from 7 to 29, and the circulation from 10,213 to a maximum in 1918 of 58,085 volumes.

PLAYGROUNDS

Following is the report of the circulation of books in our city playgrounds, during the past summer.

	1918	1919	Gain	Loss
Chase Park	185	739	554	
Sylvan Avenue	154	330	176	
Liberty Street	444	917	473	
Locust Street	1,099	688		411
Cooke Street	186	250	64	
Waterville		220	220	
	2,068	3,144	1,487	411

Stories were told in the Sylvan Avenue and Locust Street Playgrounds. We hope to do more along this line another year. The total circulation is decidedly creditable, as the playground books are given out once a week only.

Respectfully submitted,

SARAH N. CHURCH,

Head of Children's Department.

November 22, 1919.

The Staff. A special feature of our experience each year is the resignation of members of the staff. Dorothy Stearns, our cataloger, and Barbara H. Smith, reference librarian, trained assistants with three years experience in this library, left us late in the year, the former intending to spend a year at home and the latter accepting a position as librarian-in-chief at the Gardner, Massachusetts library. Bessie Richardson moved with her family out of town. Lillian Landgren, a Waterbury girl who has been with us six years, has been promoted to the Information Desk. Kathleen Ainey and Marie Van Horn, graduates of the Pratt Institute School of Library Science, entered the library this fall, the former as executive assistant, and the latter as cataloger; and a trained Children's Librarian, Ellen Yoder, has been engaged to help Miss Church whose work has grown so that it is getting rapidly out of hand.

We hope that some continuity of service may be maintained during the coming year, and that the library as it emerges from the unstable conditions of the past few years may respond better to the demands of our patient and appreciative public.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN SPERRY,
Librarian.

March 31, 1920.

STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1919

Edwin C. Northrop, Treasurer, in account with

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

Debit:			
Balance on hand January 1, 1919.....		$7,468.68	
Received on principal fund.....		5,500.00	
Received from interest		14,038.83	
Received from City of Waterbury (appropriation)		15,000.00	
Received from Helen Sperry Librarian (fines, etc.)		2,712.88	
			$44,720.09
Credit:			
Loans of principal		$4,500.00	
EXPENDITURES			
Board of Agents,			
Salaries	$800.00		
Miscellaneous	150.80		
		$950.80	
Binding books	$1,836.53		
Binding supplies	53.46		
Books	8,522.87		
Car tickets	119.09		
Electric repairs and supplies	97.34		
Fire insurance	399.42		
Fuel	997.66		
Furniture	387.07		
Lighting	670.85		
Periodicals and pamphlets..	825.30		
Printing	89.66		
Repairs	549.34		
Salaries	17,823.80		
Stationery and postage.....	313.71		
Supplies	354.16		
Telephone	56.48		
Transportation	155.36		
Water tax	55.79		
Miscellaneous	478.55		
		$33,786.44	
Branches			
Brooklyn	$307.58		
Rose Hill	288.05		
Waterville	277.40		
		$873.03	
Balance on hand January 1, 1920.....		4,609.82	
			$44,720.09

Examined and found correct January 28, 1920.

MARTIN J. SCULLY,
J. S. ELTON,
B. H. FITZPATRICK,
Finance Committee.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Annual report for the year ending December 31, 1919.

Population 100,000 (military census, estimated 1917).

Free for lending; free for reference.

Central Library; 3 branches, 1 delivery station.

29 schools; 6 summer playgrounds.

Open 333 days; main library with 2 reading rooms, 72 hours per week.

Reading rooms open on Sunday, October to April, inclusive, 2 to 6 p. m.

106,204 volumes January 1, 1919; 7,200 added during the year by purchase; 105 added by gift; 203 added by binding; 3,668 withdrawn.

Total number of volumes January 1, 1920, 110,174.

Pamphlets, 25,000 (estimated).

Loaned for home use: Fiction 168,123 volumes.

Loaned for home use: Total 282,110 volumes.

Number of borrowers registered during the year 6,116.

Total number of registered borrowers, Library and Branches 10,915.

Registration period, two years.

Newspapers and periodicals, 234 titles; 51 extra copies.

Number using reading rooms; no count kept.

FINANCIAL

Trust funds invested	$263,202.68

RECEIPTS

Income from invested funds	14,038.83
City apropriation	15,000.00
Fines and sales	2,712.58
	$31,751.41

EXPENSES

Salaries, library service	$14,859.80
Salaries, janitor service	2,964.00
Salaries, officers of Board	800.00
Books	8,522.87
Periodicals	825.30
Binding	1,889.99
Fuel	997.66
Lighting	670.85
Repairs	549.34
Insurance	399.42
Other expenses	3,131.04
	$35,610.27
Deficit	3,858.86
	$31,751.41

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

OF THE

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Fifty-Second Annual Report

FOR 1920

WATERBURY, CONN.

1921

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

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WATERBURY, CONN.

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Treasurer's Fifty-Second Annual Report

FOR 1920

WATERBURY, CONN.

1921

H. F. G.

OFFICERS OF

THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

1920

BOARD OF AGENTS

Bernard H. Fitzpatrick, 201 Willow St....	Term expires July 4, 1922
John A. Coe, 493 Willow St.....	" " " 4, 1922
Martin Scully, 218 Sylvan Ave.....	" " " 4, 1924
James S. Elton, 70 Church St.....	" " " 4, 1924
Edward L. Seery, 32 Linden St.....	" " " 4, 1926
Mark L. Sperry, 21 Cooke St.....	" " " 4, 1926
James E. Russell, 114 Willow St.....	" " " 4, 1928
Frederick S. Chase, 165 Grove St.....	" " " 4, 1928
Charles H. Swenson, 170 Hill St.....	" " " 4, 1930
Terrence F. Carmody, 2 Chestnut Ave....	" " " 4, 1930
John P. Kellogg, 144 Buckingham St.....	" " " 4, 1932
W. S. Jones, 9 Cliff St.....	" " " 4, 1932

OFFICERS

Martin Scully.....	President
Charles H. Swenson.....	Secretary
Edwin C. Northrop.....	Treasurer

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry.....	Librarian
Lillian E. Landgren.....	Information Desk
Jean K. Taylor.....	Industrial Department
Marjorie Hawley.....	Executive Assistant
Sarah N. Church.....	Children's Department
Ellen E. Yoder.....	Children's Department
Ruth E. Smith.....	Cataloger
Louise K. Campion.....	Registration Desk
Cornelia B. Doherty.....	General Assistant
Emelyn M. Barrett.....	" "
May G. Barrett.....	" "
Maud Davis.....	" "
Frances C. Minor.....	
Bernice L. McLean.....	" "

Janitors

John F. Hogan William Barth

Library hours, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Reading rooms open Sundays, 2 to 6 p. m. October to April, inclusive.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Announcement was made at the last annual meeting of the Board that the family of the late Mr. Henry S. Chase proposed at its own expense, to improve and develop Library Park, including part of the Library property.

A Committee from this Board was appointed to consider and agree to, on behalf of the Library, plans of Frederick Law Olmstead of Olmstead Brothers, Brookline, Mass., for this work.

Following are the holders of the Holmes Scholarships at Yale University.

	Class	
Academic Dept.	1921	William B. Moore
	1922	No applications
	1923	Abe S. Brown
	1924	W. Joseph Flynn, Jr.
Sheffield Scientific School	1921	Richard I. Williams

Respectfully,

CHARLES H. SWENSON,
Secretary.

March 31, 1921.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

To the Board of Agents of the Bronson Library:

The report of the Library for the year ending December 31, 1920, is herewith submitted:

Books on hand January 1, 1920.....		110,174
Additions by purchase.....	8,944	
Additions by gift.....	365	
Periodicals bound.....	271	
Connecticut documents.....	14	
United States documents.....	154	9,748
Total.....		119,922
Books worn out, etc., adult.....	1,053	
Children's books.....	1,552	
School libraries.....	1,216	
Missing at inventory, Main library.....	238	4,059
January 1, 1921.....		115,863

Open shelves. Losses from the open shelves of the main library numbered 322 volumes, of which 181 disappeared from the Children's Room. Eighty-four books reported missing in 1919 were afterwards found, the actual number to be deducted this year from the total in the library being therefore 238. Owing to a serious shortage on the staff, the inventory of the branches could not be taken during the year.

Books bought numbered 1686 more than in 1919. Of the total number 5,944 (or 66%) were children's books, of which 3,775 were assigned to the school libraries. The average cost of these was 89 cents per volume. About fifty volumes more were added to the adult department than in the preceding year.

Volumes purchased were classfied as follows:

	Adult	Juvenile
General works	22	1
Philosophy	29	1
Religion	13	62
Sociology	121	368
Language	27	0
Science	41	188
Useful arts	219	78
Fine arts	165	194
Literature	213	323
Travel	90	406
Biography	110	129
History	102	363
Foreign	27	0
Pamphlets	28	0
Fiction	1,793	3,831
Total	3,000	5,944

CIRCULATION

The circulation of books (312,629 v.) exceeded that of any former year; the largest before 1920 being 293,885 volumes in 1914, when because of an industrial depression, allowing people more time to read, there was an increase of 36,535 volumes in the use of books during the year. From 1916 to 1918 disturbances due to the war were at their height and there was also an epidemic of influenza, so that in these three years there was a decline in circulation of over 43,000 volumes. Beginning in 1919, the use of the library again increased—the gain for that year being 31,555, and for 1920, 30,519 volumes, making the total gain in circulation for the two years, 62,074 volumes.

The library was open for circulation 304 days.

The largest circulation in any one day was 1136 volumes on February seventh.

Divided by months, the year's circulation as compared with that of four preceeding years was as follows:

	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
January.....	14,210	13,023	13,307	14,090	14,495
February.....	13,913	13,126	14,306	13,825	14,025
March.....	15,426	16,225	15,488	16,229	16,292
April.....	13,174	13,541	13,690	14,534	15,053
May.....	12,521	12,954	12,459	13,577	13,586
June.....	12,011	13,196	12,773	12,469	14,567
July.....	11,945	12,684	13,685	14,561	15,936
August.....	12,264	13,375	13,902	13,956	14,452
September.....	10,669	10,756	10,663	12,261	12,208
October.....	11,880	12,885	5,737	13,953	14,695
November.....	12,710	13,058	10,114	14,300	16,724
December.....	11,907	11,535	11,031	14,718	17,202
Total.....	152,630	156,358	147,155	168,473	179,235
School libraries	47,347	48,704	58,085	53,253	69,446
Playgrounds	2,923	3,400	2,068	3,144	3,493
Brooklyn Br'ch	20,780	22,059	17,459	21,954	22,643
Waterville Br'ch	9,848	10,728	10,866	12,685	14,177
Rose Hill Br'ch	23,151	20,946	14,338	19,343	21,345
Deposit Station	916	1,122	584	3,258	2,290
Total.....	257,595	263,317	250,555	282,110	312,629

Circulation by Classes in Main Library

	Adult	Per Cent	Juvenile	Percent
General Works..	3,856	2.97	599	1.22
Philosophy.....	1,686	1.30	23	.05
Religion.....	867	.67	578	1.17
Sociology.....	2,261	1.74	3,007	6.11
Language.....	571	.44	0	.00
Science.....	1,694	1.30	1,499	3.05
Useful Arts.....	5,074	3.90	1,197	2.43
Fine Arts.....	3,124	2.40	2,067	4.19
Literature.....	6,359	4.89	2,841	5.77
Travel.....	2,041	1.57	2,932	5.96
Biography.....	2,747	2.11	1,108	2.25
History.....	2,632	2.02	2,907	5.91
Foreign.....	2,972	2.29		
Pamphlets.....	717	.55		
Fiction.....	93,410	71.85	30,466	61.89
Total.....	130,011	100.00	49,224	100.00

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The center of the reference work is the Information Desk, where the librarian is hard pressed to answer the many questions brought to her. She has to keep in touch with the work of the Industrial Department, the Lending Department and the Children's Room so that she can direct people to the points where needed attention may be given them.

At the Information Desk also, requests for the purchase of new books are presented, so that the reference librarian gets to be known as the friend of the public. The work is broadening and inspiring because of its human contact and its connection with the varying interests of the city, all of which are reflected in questions brought to the library. The Colonial Dames prize essays, the grammar school debates, the lists of required reading, the Pilgrim tercentenary all tend toward closer cooperation with the teachers, so that all through the school year the reading-space on the lower floor is crowded by students in the afternoons and their reserved books occupy all available shelving. On Saturday afternoons pupils from the New Britain normal school pursue their studies in the library and borrow not only books, but pictures from the circulating collection. A school reference

room is greatly needed so that the shelving in the main hall may be used for seasonable exhibitions of books for adults.

By blocking up the marble fireplace with bookcases we managed last February to have an exhibition of Home and Garden books. House plans and volumes on interior decoration were displayed and for the garden part of the exhibition, there were seed dealers' catalogs adorned with idyllic pictures of fruits and flowers. There were serious volumes on horticulture and everything possible on the raising of bees, pigs, poultry and other food producers. When the exhibition was withdrawn it was quite pathetically missed.

In the fall the presidential campaign brought requests for the lives of the candidates, copies of the League of Nations covenant, and books on the government of the United States. Altho quite neutral we were asked to show that the Republican Party had never lived up to its platform promises.

In November, the journeyings of a committee of the Mattatuck Historical Society in search of colonial furniture aroused the curiosity of many people who came to the library to use our fine collection of books.

As for the higher education, interest in that has been continuous, so that hardly a day has passed without calling into use the college and university catalogs which are sent to us from all parts of the country. Taking the library as a whole, between seven and eight thousand questions were asked at the information desks, while many addressed to the pages engaged in putting away books, were answered confidently, though not always wisely.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Miss Sarah N. Church, the librarian of this department reports a circulation of 69,446 volumes through the schools, being a gain of 16,193 over last year, and the largest circulation yet recorded for the school library collection, in fact it now equals that of all departments of the main library twenty years ago. This circulation was based upon a collection of 13,329 volumes divided into small libraries and sent with catalogs and charging system complete, to 198 rooms in 30 schoolhouses. Books on European and colonial history were sent to the 6th grade, the Revolutionary period to the seventh, and those on the Civil war to the eighth grade. About 40 per cent of the circulation was non-fiction, mostly from the classes, history, biography and travel. As the preparatory work was done in the summer most of the libraries were ready to be sent out in September, and by the end of October the last box had been delivered. A new list of books was then compiled and ordered, so that replacements of wornout books and necessary additions of new titles could be made during the school year. Miss Church also compiled a catalog of all the stories, poems and plays mentioned in the school course in language with references to the books in which these could be found. This catalog is in the Children's Room at the main library and teachers may use it at any time.

All the pictures called for in the school outline and also many geographical and historical subjects were added to the picture collection, the circulation of which increased to 1948, a gain of 1297 over the previous year. Apart from the school use, reporters, art students, normal school students and people interested in costume design found the collection of pictures useful.

In February the visiting of the schools began. The libraries in each schoolhouse were inspected, suggestions by the teachers noted, worn books were packed to be returned to the main library, and preparations were made for freshening up the entire collection. Stories were told also, to the children in many of the rooms. In June the entire collection returned to the main library and the routine began again.

The management of the Children's Rooms at the main library and in the branches was supervised by Miss Ellen Yoder, a graduate of the Pittsburgh training school, so that the work was systematized and well carried on during the

year. There was also a gain in circulation proportionate to that in other parts of the library system. Stories were told in the children's room of the main library and branches, and were listened to by a total of 2,635 children.

Christmas exhibit. The annual exhibition of the best books for children was held in the Art Room during Children's Book Week, Nov. 15th to 21st, a period in the year when, by common consent, publishers and librarians unite in promoting good reading. Our exhibit consisted of 500 of the best juveniles, and the children's librarians were present to answer questions about the books. Some of the newest books were lent us by Davis and Nye. 246 people visited the room, some spending an afternoon browsing among their old favorites. As a result there were more books in Waterbury homes this year, and many made the acquaintance of our star collection of 400 juveniles for the use of parents and teachers.

Playgrounds. Books were sent during July and August to the eight city playgrounds. There was a gain of 349 over the circulation of the preceding year, the total being 3,493 volumes. The figures include only volumes taken for home reading. Many others were read and enjoyed on the grounds. The books were especially appreciated in the northern part of the city, where the playgrounds form a bright spot in the congested districts.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT

6,780 persons visited this department and 3,839 books were loaned. Reference questions numbered 1,485. In November and December statistics were kept to see just how the department was used and it was found that during these two months, 23 people examined the trade catalogs, 527 came to read magazines and 703 spent the time browsing among the books. 367 reference questions were asked, 211 of these in December, the largest monthly record for the year. Many of the questions required much research and oftentimes information was given first-hand from Waterbury experts. The public is indebted in this way to many people who prefer to have their names withheld.

There were some inquiries from the vocational school for books on lettering, machine-shop work and woodworking, but the department is chiefly for adults and the calls for books on electricity, mechanics, business, metallurgy and building construction were about evenly divided, showing that persons in these occupations are finding a real use for the library.

A special effort is made to supply books adapted to the needs of the public. 186 new volumes were purchased during the year at a cost of $396.20, and fifty-four technical magazines were subscribed for. The library has the only complete file of patents in the city, and there are daily calls for both recent and very old ones.

Deficiencies were sometimes supplied by books or magazines loaned from the libraries of the American Brass, or the Scovill Mfg. Co.

The department is increasing in value, and out-of-town visitors say it is one of the best they have seen.

Fiftieth Anniversary

This was called to the attention of the public through editorials and historical articles in the three Waterbury newspapers and a booklet was compiled and distributed through the mails and at the library.

Important dates given in the booklet were the opening of the library April 1, 1870, opening of the present building, September 1894, starting of the three branches in 1907, 1909 and 1913, respectively, and the beginning in 1903 at the Barnard school, of the system of traveling libraries for schools. Bequests to the library were $200,000 in 1869 from Silas Bronson, $20,000 in 1900, from Mrs. Caroline O. Platt, and $10,000 in 1911 from Elisha Leavenworth. Mr. Bronson's bequest was reduced to $188,000 by the payment of an inheritance tax of twelve thousand dollars.

The Staff. There were three resignations during the year. The Misses Kathleen Ainey and Marie VanHorn, both graduates of the Pratt Institute School of Library Science, left us after nine months service for positions nearer home. Miss Saba Haugh, an assistant of seven years experience and the very capable librarian of the Industrial Department, was married in June to Mr. Homer Nugent, a graduate of our Waterbury schools and now instructor in English at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Miss Ainey's place as executive assistant was supplied by Miss Marjorie Hawley, a graduate of the same institution. Miss Ruth E. Smith and Miss Jean K. Taylor, both college graduates with a year of extra training in the New York State Library School, were engaged for the catalog and Industrial Department. In July 1920, Miss Bernice L. McLean, honor graduate of the Crosby High School was admitted as a junior assistant on the regular staff, having been for several years on the substitute corps.

Owing to the gradual slacking up of industry the personnel of the part-time workers and substitutes was improved and the service to the public was continued without serious derangement.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN SPERRY,

Librarian.

BRONSON LIBRARY

STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1920

Debit:			
Balance on hand January 1, 1920		$4,609.82	
Received on principal fund		5,500.00	
Received from interest		13,978.49	
Received from City of Waterbury (Appropriation)		23,000.00	
Received from Helen Sperry, Librarian, (fines, etc.)		3,279.05	
Miscellaneous		87.63	
			$50,454.99
Credit:			
Loans of principal		$4,500.00	
EXPENDITURES			
Board of Agents,			
Salaries	$800.00		
Miscellaneous	248.18		
		$1,048.18	
Book binding	$2,014.06		
Books	10,244.86		
Car tickets	135.72		
Fire Insurance	1,886.27		
Fuel	1,220.49		
Furniture	127.75		
Lighting	617.35		
Pamphlets and Periodicals	896.27		
Repairs	708.80		
Salaries	21,405.12		
Stationery and postage	471.34		
Supplies	480.50		
Transportation	231.44		
Miscellaneous	623.79		
		$41,063.76	
Branches			
Brooklyn	312.77		
Rose Hill	292.59		
Waterville	327.24		
		$932.60	
Balance on hand January, 1921		$2,910.45	
			$50,454.99

MARTIN J. SCULLY,
J. S. ELTON,
B. H. FITZPATRICK,
Finance Committee.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Annual report for the year ending December 31, 1920.
Population 100,000 (military census).
Free for lending; free for reference.
Central library; 3 branches.
30 schools; 6 summer playgrounds.
Open 304 days; main library with 2 reading rooms, 72 hours per week.
Reading rooms open on Sunday, October to April, inclusive, 2 to 6 p. .m
100,174 volumes January 1, 1920; 8,944 added during the year by purchase; 533 added by gift; 271 added by binding; 4,059 withdrawn.
Total number of volumes January 1, 1921, 115,863.
Pamphlets, 25,000 (estimated).
Loaned for home use; Fiction 213,032 volumes.
Loaned for home use: Total 312,629 volumes.
Number of borrowers registered during the year 5,323.
Total number of registered borrowers, Library and Branches, 10,887.
Registration period two years.
Newspapers and periodicals 152 titles; 33 extra copies.
Number using reading rooms; no count kept.

FINANCIAL

Trust funds invested	$259,343.82

RECEIPTS

Income from invested funds	13,978.49
City appropriation	23,000.00
Fines and sales	3,279.05
Miscellaneous	87.63
	$40,345.17
Expenditures	$43,044.54
Deficit	$2,699.37

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

OF THE

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Fifty-Third Annual Report

FOR 1921

WATERBURY, CONN
C.B
1922

Waterbury (Conn.)

FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

OF THE

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Fifty-Third Annual Report

FOR 1921

WATERBURY, CONN.
1922

OFFICERS OF

THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

1921

BOARD OF AGENTS

Martin Scully, 218 Sylvan Ave.....	Term	expires	July	4, 1924
James S. Elton, 70 Church St.....	"	"	"	4, 1924
Edward L. Seery, 50 Mitchell Ave.	"	"	"	4, 1926
Mark L. Sperry, 21 Cooke St.....	"	"	"	4, 1926
James E. Russell, 114 Willow St.....	"	"	"	4, 1928
Frederick S. Chase, 165 Grove St.....	"	"	"	4, 1928
Charles H. Swenson, 170 Hill St.....	"	"	"	4, 1930
Terrence F. Carmody, 2 Chestnut Ave...	"	"	"	4, 1930
John P. Kellogg, 144 Buckingham St.....	"	"	"	4, 1932
W. S. Jones, 9 Cliff St.....	"	"	"	4, 1932
Bernard H. Fitzpatrick, 201 Willow St...	"	"	"	4, 1934
John A. Coe, 493 Willow St.....	"	"	"	4, 1934

OFFICERS

Martin Scully.....President
Charles H. Swenson.....Secretary
Edwin C. Northrop.....Treasurer

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry.....Librarian
Lillian E. Landgren.....Information Desk
Jean K. Taylor.....Industrial Department
Marjorie Hawley.....Executive Assistant
Sarah N. Church.....Children's Department
Ellen E. Yoder.....Children's Department
Ruth E. Smith.....Cataloger
L. Katherine Campion.....Registration Desk
Cornelia B. Doherty.....General Assistant
Emelyn M. Barrett..... " "
May G. Barrett..... " "
Maud Davis..... " "
Frances C. Minor..... " "
Bernice L. McLean..... " "
Ruth L. Fitzsimons..... " "

Janitors

John F. Hogan William Barth

Library hours, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Reading rooms open Sundays, 2 to 6 p. m. October to April, inclusive.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR 1921

An outstanding event was the erection of a bronze statue of Benjamin Franklin on the Library grounds, in front of the Library, by permission of the Board of Agents, this location having been considered the best by those in charge of the matter. The statue was the gift to the City from the late Elisha Leavenworth. It was unveiled, accepted by the City and given into the care of this Board, on Saturday afternoon, June 4, with an elaborate program and in the presence of a large number of people.

Following are the holders of the Holmes Scholarships at Yale University.

	Class	
Academic Dept.	1922	Vacancy
	1923	Abe S. Brown
	1924	W. Joseph Flynn, Jr.
	1925	Arthur C. Gulliver
Sheffield Scientific School		Vacancy

Respectfully,

CHARLES H. SWENSON,

Secretary.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

To the Board of Agents of the Bronson Library:

The report of the Library for the year ending December 31, 1921, is herewith submitted:

Books on hand January 1, 1921.....		115,863
Additions by purchase.....	6,784	
Additions by gift.....	137	
Periodicals bound.....	242	
Connecticut documents.....	36	
United States documents.....	133	7,332
Total.....		123,195
Books worn out, etc., adult.....	1,012	
Children's books.....	1,881	
School libraries.....	1,469	
Missing at inventory, Main library.....	434	
" " " Rose Hill branch..	92	
" " " Brooklyn branch...	401	
" " " Waterville branch.	7	5,296
January 1, 1922.....		117,899

Books bought numbered 2158 less than in 1920. Of the total number 3956 (or 60%) were children's books, of which 2185 were assigned to the school libraries. The average cost of the latter was 87 cents per volume. About 170 volumes less were added to the adult department than in the preceding year. The average cost of all books purchased was $1.28 per volume, an increase of 13 cents over the average of 1920.

Volumes purchased were classified as follows:

	Adult	Juvenile
General works	33	10
Philosophy	20	0
Religion	9	110
Sociology	122	283
Language	17	0
Science	43	139
Useful arts	187	66
Fine arts	113	165
Literature	168	246
Travel	71	292
Biography	95	145
History	92	479
Foreign	124	0
Pamphlets	24	0
Fiction	1710	2021
Total	2828	3956

CIRCULATION

Divided by months, the year's circulation as compared with that of four preceding years was as follows:

	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921
January	13,023	13,307	14,090	14,495	19,151
February	13,126	14,306	13,825	14,025	19,308
March	16,225	15,488	16,229	16,292	21,694
April	13,541	13,690	14,534	15,053	20,481
May	12,954	12,459	13,577	13,586	18,857
June	13,196	12,773	12,469	14,567	18,883
July	12,684	13,685	14,561	15,936	19,342
August	13,375	13,902	13,956	14,452	19,223
September	10,756	10,663	12,261	12,208	16,764
October	12,885	5,737	13,953	14,695	20,710
November	13,058	10,114	14,300	16,724	21,980
December	11,535	11,031	14,718	17,202	21,049
Total	156,358	147,155	168,473	179,235	237,442
School libraries	48,704	58,085	53,253	69,446	80,094
Playgrounds	3,400	2,068	3,144	3,493	7,351
Waterville Br'ch	22,059	17,459	21,954	22,643	27,975
Brooklyn Br'ch	10,728	10,866	12,685	14,177	18,003
Rose Hill Br'ch	20,946	14,338	19,343	21,345	23,172
Deposit Stations	1,122	584	3,258	2,290	1,621
Total	263,317	250,555	282,110	312,629	395,658

The circulation of books (395,658) exceeded that of any previous year; the largest up to 1921 being 312,629 volumes in 1920. That the ups and downs of industry are faithfully registered by the library is shown by the fact that during the depression of 1913-1914 there was an increase in circulation of 36,535 volumes, followed during 1916-1918, the busy years of the war, by a decline of over 43,000 volumes. Beginning in 1919, the gain in circulation was 31,555; in 1920 30,519, while in 1921, the period of widespread unemployment, the increase rose to 83,029 volumes, a total of 145,103 for the three years. The influence made itself felt not only in the circulating department but in all departments of the Library. The extra wear and tear on the books necessitated the employment of more assistants in the mending-room, and the bill for rebinding of books increased by $1,200.00. To keep within our income we were forced to reduce the purchase of books at a time when the demand was greatest.

Circulation by Classes in Main Library

	Adult	Per cent	Juvenile	Per cent
General Works...	4,646	2.68	738	1.15
Philosophy	1,803	1.03	13	.02
Religion	1,053	.61	878	1.37
Sociology	2,581	1.49	4,060	6.31
Language	737	.42	8	.01
Science	2,375	1.37	2,371	3.69
Useful Arts	6,651	3.83	1,424	2.21
Fine Arts	4,498	2.59	2,610	4.06
Literature	9,259	5.34	3,648	5.67
Travel	2,928	1.69	4.142	6.44
Biography	3,285	1.96	1,765	2.75
History	3,008	1.73	3,676	5.72
Foreign	4,205	2.42		
Pamphlets	602	.34		
Fiction	125,515	72.50	38,963	60.60
Total	173,146	100.00	64,296	100.00

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

Miss Lillian Landgren reports that 8897 questions were submitted at the Information Desk, being an increase of 2167 for the year. In the Industrial Department 2,451 subjects were looked up; in the Children's Room, 773 and, in the branch libraries, 344, making a total of 12,525 for all departments.

An interesting feature of the year's work was the revival of debating clubs. Except in the grammar schools, these were all discontinued during the war, but in 1921 high schools, private schools, church societies and various clubs made the discussion of current topics an important part of their program. Questions vigorously argued were Disarmament, Immigration, Japanese Relations, the Soldier's Bonus, and War Debts. At St. Margaret's School, the pupils considered Whether Housewives Should Feed Tramps, the Advantage of Private as Opposed to Public Schools, the Educational Value of Greek and Latin as Compared with French and German, and whether high schools should have a three years' instead of a four years' course.

There were the usual prize essays suggested by the Society of Colonial Dames, so that pupils from the grammar schools flooded the library in quest of material for these, and for an all-embracing composition entitled From Plymouth Rock, 1620 to World Power 1920.

Many of the questions asked were not especially important, but we aim to treat all classes alike and to serve children in the same painstaking way as adults. In a library like ours, containing more than one hundred thousand volumes and indexed only partially by a catalog of nearly half a million cards, it is difficult for the best informed people to find their way through the maze, so that the public has come to rely more and more on the experience of those trained for the work. That the library is coming to be appreciated on its informational side is illustrated by the fact that people are often sent to us by someone who has said that what they wanted could surely be found at the library. Being mortal we sometimes fail in producing the material, but our successes are frequent enough to win many expressions of appreciation from our patrons. The Information Desk is the barometer which records the rise and fall of public interest in the library. This year the movement has been continuously upward.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT

The work of this department grows every year both in amount and in quality and a very cordial spirit is developing between librarian and readers. Attendance during the year was 10,451, a gain of 3,671 over 1920; the circulation of books, 5,709 volumes, a gain of 1,870; and the number of questions asked was 2,451, a gain of 966 over the preceding year. Statistics, however, do not show the full use of the department as many books and magazines are read or used for reference of which no account can be kept.

Fewer books on industrial subjects were bought than in 1920; 156 volumes being added at a cost, in round numbers, of $515.00, as compared with 186 volumes at $396.00 in 1920. Altho it is only three years since the department was opened the limit of shelf space has been reached, so that we have had to remove to the hall or to the book stack everything published before 1910. This measure was undertaken with regret, but has brought up to date the collection of books on the open shelves.

A keen interest was shown in patents during the year, so that our collection of"specifications and drawings,"which is complete from the opening of the Patent Office to the present time, was much used by searchers. Some of the year's inventions by Waterbury men are now on the market, repaying the investment put into them.

One result of slack times has been an increase in the demand from factory executives for the most recent material on factory administration, cost cutting and personnel work. A new magazine, Administration, started by the Ronald Press Company in January 1921, has been received by many with enthusiasm and is called for each month by some of the heads of the largest firms. Its articles written by authorities, are timely and to the point.

An interest in ceramics and porcelain has developed, but as little has been written on this subject from an industrial standpoint, pamphlets and bulletins from various testing laboratories and experiment stations have been our chief source of information.

The usual requests for information on metals, automobiles, wireless telegraphy, building, and electricity continue, and those relating to industrial chemistry have been noticeably frequent since the closing of the technical library of the Scovill Mfg. Co.

OFFICERS OF

THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

1921

BOARD OF AGENTS

Martin Scully, 218 Sylvan Ave.	Term expires July 4, 1924
James S. Elton, 70 Church St.	" " " 4, 1924
Edward L. Seery, 50 Mitchell Ave.	" " " 4, 1926
Mark L. Sperry, 21 Cooke St.	" " " 4, 1926
James E. Russell, 114 Willow St.	" " " 4, 1928
Frederick S. Chase, 165 Grove St.	" " " 4, 1928
Charles H. Swenson, 170 Hill St.	" " " 4, 1930
Terrence F. Carmody, 2 Chestnut Ave.	" " " 4, 1930
John P. Kellogg, 144 Buckingham St.	" " " 4, 1932
W. S. Jones, 9 Cliff St.	" " " 4, 1932
Bernard H. Fitzpatrick, 201 Willow St.	" " " 4, 1934
John A. Coe, 493 Willow St.	" " " 4, 1934

OFFICERS

Martin Scully	President
Charles H. Swenson	Secretary
Edwin C. Northrop	Treasurer

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry	Librarian
Lillian E. Landgren	Information Desk
Jean K. Taylor	Industrial Department
Marjorie Hawley	Executive Assistant
Sarah N. Church	Children's Department
Ellen E. Yoder	Children's Department
Ruth E. Smith	Cataloger
L. Katherine Campion	Registration Desk
Cornelia B. Doherty	General Assistant
Emelyn M. Barrett	" "
May G. Barrett	" "
Maud Davis	" "
Frances C. Minor	" "
Bernice L. McLean	" "
Ruth L. Fitzsimons	" "

Janitors

John F. Hogan William Barth

Library hours, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Reading rooms open Sundays, 2 to 6 p. m. October to April, inclusive.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Miss S. N. Church, librarian of this department, reports that deposit libraries for the use of the children were sent out to 29 schoolhouses and distributed through 196 rooms ranging from the third to the eighth grade. The circulation, based on a collection of 14,768 volumes, was 80,-094, a gain of 10,648 over the preceding year, although owing to the closing of Oronoke school, the number of rooms furnished with libraries was two less than in 1920. The use of the books ranged from 172 volumes at East Mountain, to 7,778 volumes issued from the Webster school. Collections of twelve volumes each were sent also to ten 8th grades in schools too near the library to need the ordinary class-room libraries. There were in all 764 volumes selected for the use of language-teachers wishing to prepare their pupils for High-School work in English by preliminary practise in book reviewing. A suggestive outline for the work accompanied the books and was used by some of the teachers.

Playgrounds. Three playgrounds were omitted from the library service this year; Chase Park because it had a collection of books of its own, Duggan, on account of nearness to the Brooklyn Branch Library, while Hamilton Park offered special attractions in other directions. In spite of these deductions the circulation from the play grounds was 7,351 volumes against 3,493 in 1920, an increase of more than 50 per cent. The stories told on Library Day were eagerly looked forward to especially at the Hopeville playground, where every child in the playground was seated at the feet of the "Library teacher" when the story hour began.

Good Book Week. Our annual exhibition of the best books for children was held in the Art Room during Good Book Week, November 15th to 21st, a period in the year during which by common consent, publishers and librarians unite in promoting good reading. The publishers exerted themselves on this occasion to an unusual degree, advertising for weeks beforehand and furnishing attractive posters slogans and other publicity material for the use of the libraries. The American Library Association also sent suggestions for the celebration and some of these were successfully applied in our own library.

Plans for a boy's bookshelves such as are described in Thomas Bailey Aldrich's Story of a Bad Boy were distributed among the children and four sets of these shelves

made by pupils of the Walsh and the Webster schools were on exhibition, attracting favorable attention especially from the boys. The plans were furnished to the publishers by Mrs. Aldrich as her contribution to the success of Good Book Week. The library also bought and distributed four hundred copies of a reliable catalog of children's books selected by the superintendent of the Children's Department of the Brooklyn Public Library and by librarians of prominence in this field.

The display of books was large and varied, including many volumes with artistic illustrations, as well as some less costly for children of all ages and tastes. A considerable number were selected from the stock of Davis & Nye and lent us for the week. Although the occasion was intended especially for parents interested in good reading the children were admitted at certain hours in the day, and were also entertained at a story-telling hour every afternoon at five o'clock. A special occasion was the celebration of Louisa Alcott Day, when stories from two of Miss Alcott's books were told to the children and a chair and other articles from her home in Concord were displayed. These were kindly furnished by Mrs. E. A. Taylor of Waterville, a cousin of Miss Alcott.

Some publicity was given the library by two moving-picture theatres which included in their programs films based on the stories in standard books. The pictures of the Last of the Mohicans were especially enjoyed. Members of the library staff in charge of the exhibition on successive days were aided by two Boy Scouts and a Girl Scout in full uniform, who distributed to the visitors the bookcase plans and the catalog entitled The Boys' and Girls' Bookshelf, and also kept account of attendance. The older boys and girls visited the room in large numbers, bringing the total attendance to 434 which was more than twice the attendance of the preceding year.

Hospital Station. The history of our deposit stations for the last twenty years has been a melancholy record of early decline. Books have been lent by request to various institutions, but were usually returned if returned at all, in poor condition and without accurate statistics of circulation. Many volumes were lost and not paid for. This year, however, a station library was started which has met a real need. On the request of the Superintendent of the Waterbury Hospital, one hundred and fifty popular books selected for their appropriateness to invalid reading were

sent up from the Bronson Library for the use of the patients, and were distributed to them by Miss Maud Smith, a member of the clerical force. A catalog and charging system accompanied the books and accurate statistics were kept. Once a week, Miss Emelyn Barrett of the library staff visited the hospital to talk with the patients about the books and note their preferences for special authors, and usually returned with commissions for individual books to be sent up. The reading has been mostly fiction, with an occasional exception when books of travel, biography and history were asked for, as for example, by the wife of an army officer who liked to read about India and other places which she had visited.

An attempt was made to supply picture books to the children's ward, but as these were gathered up during the day by the attendants and left in a heterogeneous pile with the toys in the storeroom, the task of extricating them became so difficult that it seemed best to give up the attempt. Books were distributed however, to some of the older children in the common wards, and the younger ones were entertained by story-telling when the weather permitted their gathering in the sun porch of the hospital.

It has been a pleasure to know that this systematic provision of well-selected books has relieved many weary hours for the patients, and that the weekly visit of our young librarian is looked forward to with pleasure.

The circulation of books from April to December, inclusive, was 1,227 volumes.

The Franklin Statue

An event of importance in the history of Library Park was the presentation and acceptance, June 3, 1921, of our bronze statue of Benjamin Franklin, the work of the distinguished American sculptor, Paul Wayland Bartlett. The gift was provided for by a bequest of $15,000 in the will of the late Elisha Leavenworth, who desiring to symbolize by a work of art the virtues of industry, thrift and inventiveness appropriate to an industrial city, selected Franklin as embodying in the highest degree these qualities. The sum of money being available in 1911, a committee was appointed to carry out the wishes of the donor and Mr. Bartlett was engaged as the sculptor. Owing to the breaking out of the war in 1914, the statue which had been begun in Paris, was brought over to this country and the work was started all over again under difficulties which delayed its completion until 1921. The occasion of its

presentation to the city was celebrated as a gala day and an elaborate program was carried out and duly recorded in the local newspapers of which the library has preserved a complete file.

The Staff. The administration of the Library was embarrassed by the resignation of Miss Ellen E. Yoder and Miss Dorothy Kohl, trained assistants in the Children's Department. Owing to lack of funds their places were not supplied, but in March Miss Ruth L. Fitzsimons came as an assistant in the Children's Room. Before the end of the year, Miss Jean K. Taylor, librarian of the Industrial Department, resigned to accept a position in Muskegon, Michigan, and the supervision of her department and of the cataloguing was undertaken by Miss Ruth E. Smith, whose experience of a year in both departments fitted her for the undertaking. In September, Miss Cornelia B. Doherty was granted a year's leave of absence in order to attend the School of Library Science at Pratt Institute, and her place was temporarily supplied by Miss Marion C. Kingman of Providence, a graduate of the same school. Considering the difficulties due to these changes, the Library may be congratulated on having concluded a successful year.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN SPERRY,

Librarian.

BRONSON LIBRARY

STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1921

Debits

Balance on hand January 1, 1921	$ 2,910.45	
Received on principal fund	16,000.00	
Received from interest	15,106.28	
Received from City of Waterbury (Appropriation)	25,000.00	
Received from Helen Sperry, Librarian, (fines, etc.)	3,469.35	
Miscellaneous	127.00	
Received from money borrowed	3,969.20	
		$66,582.28

Credit:

Loans of principal		$14,900.00	
EXPENDITURES			
Board of Agents	$ 933.80		
Book binding	3,242.75		
Books	8,689.60		
Car tickets	187.60		
Fire Insurance	446.13		
Fuel	999.25		
Furniture	391.38		
Lighting	636.74		
Pamphlets and Periodicals	936.98		
Repairs	252.00		
Salaries	23,987.79		
Stationery and Postage	276.20		
Supplies	783.82		
Miscellaneous	1,028.56		
		$42,792.60	
Branches			
Brooklyn	523.19		
Rose Hill	259.11		
Waterville	290.18	1,072,48	
Repayment of Money Borrowed		4,000.00	
Balance on hand January 1, 1922		3,817.20	
			$66,582.28

Examined and found correct,
January 1, 1922.

B. H. FITZPATRICK,
J. S. ELTON,
MARTIN J. SCULLY,
Finance Committee.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Annual report for the year ending December 31, 1921.
Population 100,000 (military census).
Free for lending; free for reference.
Central library; 3 branches.
30 schools; 196 classrooms; 6 summer playgrounds.
Open 304 days; main library with 2 reading rooms, 72 hours per week.
Reading rooms open on Sunday, October to April, inclusive, 2 to 6 p. m.
115,863 volumes January 1, 1921; 6,784 added during the year by purchase; 306 added by gift; 242 added by binding; 5,296 withdrawn.
Total number of volumes January 1, 1922, 117,899.
Pamphlets, 25,000 (estimated).
Loaned for home use: Fiction 271,613 volumes.
Loaned for home use: Total 395,658 volumes.
Number of borrowers registered during the year 4,569.
Total number of registered borrowers, Library and Branches: 10,041.
Registration period two years.
Newspapers and periodicals 155 titles; 41 extra copies.
Number using reading rooms; no count kept.

FINANCIAL

Trust funds invested	$256,644.45

RECEIPTS

Income from invested funds	15,106.28
City appropriation	25,000.00
Fines and sales	3,596.35
Total	$43,702.63
Expenditures	$43,865.08
Deficit	$162.45

LIBRARY

FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

OF THE

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Fifty-Fourth Annual Report

FOR 1922

1923

FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGENTS

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BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

WATERBURY, CONN.

AND THE

Treasurer's Fifty-Fourth Annual Report

FOR 1922

WATERBURY, CONN.

1923

OFFICERS OF

THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

1923

BOARD OF AGENTS

Martin Scully, 218 Sylvan Ave	Term expires July 4, 1924
James S. Elton, 70 Church St	" " " 4, 1924
Edward L. Seery, 50 Mitchell Ave	" " " 4, 1926
Mark L. Sperry, 21 Cooke St	" " " 4, 1926
James E. Russell, 114 Willow St	" " " 4, 1928
Frederick S. Chase, 165 Grove St	" " " 4, 1928
Charles H. Swenson, 170 Hill St	" " " 4, 1930
Terrence F. Carmody, 2 Chestnut Ave	" " " 4, 1930
John P. Kellogg, 144 Buckingham St	" " " 4, 1932
W. H. Jones, 9 Cliff St	" " " 4, 1932
Bernard H. Fitzpatrick, 201 Willow St	" " " 4, 1934
John A. Coe, 493 Willow St	" " " 4, 1934

OFFICERS

Martin Scully	President
Charles H. Swenson	Secretary
Edwin C. Northrop	Treasurer

LIBRARY STAFF

Helen Sperry	Librarian
Ruth E. Smith	Cataloger and Lib'n of Industrial Dep't
Marjorie Hawley	Executive Assistant
Lillian E. Landgren (Jan.-Feb.)	Information Desk
Cornelia B. Doherty (Sept.-Dec.)	" "
Frances H. Stevenson (Sept.-Dec.)	School Reference
Sarah N. Church	Children's dep't
Ruth L. Fitzsimons	" "
Marjorie L. Abbott (July-Dec.)	" "
L. Katherine Campion	Registration
Maud Davis	Branch Assistant
Emelyn M. Barrett	General Assistant
May G. Barrett	" "
Hannah T. Fitzgerald	" "
Mrs. D. L. Mead (Mar.-Dec.)	" "
Bernice L. MacLean (Jan.-Sept.)	" "
Frances C. Minor (Jan.-Feb.)	" "
Eva A. Menotti (July-Dec.)	" "
Hannah P. Anderson (Sept.-Dec.)	" "

Janitors

John F. Hogan — William Barth

Library Hours, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Reading rooms open Sundays, 2 to 6 p. m. October to April, inclusive.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR 1922

A bronze bust of the poet Dante was presented to the Library by the Waterbury people of Italian extraction, with exercises held January 22nd in the Library building.

The improvement of the Library grounds has been completed. This was part of a comprehensive plan for the development of Library Park, as mentioned in a previous report, the carrying out of which project was made possible through a generous gift of $100,000 by the family of the late Henry S. Chase. To increase the artistic effect, the porte-cochere at east side of the Library building was removed.

The resignation of Mark L. Sperry, as a member of the Board, on account of ill health, was presented at the last annual meeting and was accepted with regret. Mr. Sperry had served since 1906. Subsequently Miss Alice E. Kingsbury was elected by the Board of Aldermen to fill the vacancy, becoming the first woman to hold membership in the Board.

The Library was founded through a bequest by Silas Bronson in 1867 of the sum of $200,000—from which, however, the federal government exacted a legacy tax of $12,000. For a long time the income from the principal fund was sufficient to meet the needs of the Library. Also in 1899 Mrs. Caroline O. Platt generously gave the Library the sum of $20,000 to be added to its principal fund and the income therefrom to be used for the general support of the Library. With the greatly increasing population to serve, however, and the higher rates of expense of the times, the income was insufficient for the Library's support and it became necessary to appeal to the City for assistance. The City has now for some years made an annual appropriation for the Library and for the year 1922 the amount was $27,500, a generous sum but insufficient, it was found, to meet the requirements. An effort was made to obtain the sum of $30,000 for 1923, but the City felt unable to make the appropriation larger than for 1922.

Under the conditions, therefore, the extent of the Library's important service will be dependent upon the amount of the annual City appropriation, as the income from the principal fund cannot be materially increased and in fact may be decreased, the fund being invested as required in real-estate mortgages and bonds.

Following are the holders of the Holmes Scholarships at Yale University:

	Class	
Academic Dept.	1923	Abe S. Brown
	1924	W. Joseph Flynn, Jr.
	1925	Arthur C. Gulliver
	1926	Kenneth G. Downey
Sheffield Scientific School		Vacancy

Respectfully,

CHARLES H. SWENSON,

Secretary

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

To the Board of Agents of the Bronson Library:

The report of the Library for the year ending December 31, 1922, is herewith submitted:

Books on hand January 1, 1922.....		117,899
Additions by purchase	7,055	
Additions by gift.....	203	
Periodicals bound.....	272	
Connecticut documents.....	8	
United States Documents.....	97	7,635
Total.....		125,534
Books worn out, etc., adult.....	1,971	
Children's books.....	2,488	
School libraries.....	1,344	
Missing at inventory, Main library.....	841	
" " " Rose Hill branch	44	
" " " Brooklyn branch..	214	
Destroyed by fire, Waterville branch....	35	6,937
January 1, 1923.....		118,597

Open shelves. Losses from the open shelves in the entire library system numbered 1,283 volumes, of which 640 disappeared from the Children's Room. One hundred forty-nine books reported missing in 1921 were afterwards found, thereby reducing this year's total of lost books to 1,134. These together with 5,803 books worn out, etc. make the actual number to be deducted from the total in the library 6,937 volumes.

Books bought numbered 271 more than in 1921. Of these, 3757 (or 53%) were children's books, of which 1998 were assigned to the school libraries, the rest being divided among the children's rooms in the main library and the branch libraries. About 470 more volumes were added to the adult department than in 1921. Of these 129 volumes were assigned to the Industrial Department.

The cost of books bought for the school libraries averaged 86 cents; other children's books, 98 cents; and those for the Industrial Department $2.67 per volume.

The average cost of all books bought was $1.19 per volume, a decline of 9 cents from the average of 1921.

Volumes purchased were classified as follows:

	Adult	Juvenile
General Works	25	0
Philosophy	28	8
Religion	35	58
Sociology	114	224
Language	27	0
Science	56	108
Useful Arts	184	119
Fine Arts	145	116
Literature	219	212
Travel	56	367
Biography	120	126
History	59	216
Foreign	1	0
Pamphlets	21	0
Fiction	2208	2203
Total	3298	3757

CIRCULATION

Divided by months, the year's circulation as compared with that of four preceding years was as follows:

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
January	13,307	14,090	14,495	19,151	21,744
February	14,306	13,825	14,025	19,308	22,370
March	15,488	16,229	16,292	21,694	24,660
April	13,690	14,534	15,053	20,481	21,818
May	12,459	13,577	13,586	18,857	19,712
June	12,773	12,469	14,567	18,883	18,793
July	13,685	14,561	15,936	19,342	19,381
August	13,902	13,956	14,452	19,223	18,174
September	10,663	12,261	12,208	16,764	16,023
October	5,737	13,953	14,695	20,710	18,409
November	10,114	14,300	16,724	21,980	19,468
December	11,031	14,718	17,202	21,049	17,816
Total	147,155	168,473	179,235	237,442	238,368

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
Brought forward	147,155	168,473	179,235	237,442	238,368
School Libraries	58,085	53,253	69,446	80,094	88,020
Playgrounds	2,068	3,144	3,493	7,351	14,319
Waterville Branch	10,866	12,685	14,177	18,033	14,483
Brooklyn Branch	17,459	21,954	22,643	27,975	30,870
Rose Hill Branch	14,338	19,343	21,345	23,172	23,036
Deposit Stations	584	3,258	2,290	1,621	
Total.....	250,555	282,110	312,629	395,658	409,096

The circulation of books (409,096 v.) exceeded that of any former year and probably reached its climax for some time to come as a lack of funds for replacing worn out books and purchasing new ones, coupled with the return of business prosperity, started a decline in the use of the library during the last six months of the year.

In 1921 there was a gain in circulation of 83,029 volumes, and in 1922 we held this, and in spite of the closing of the Waterville Branch because of damage by fire, and closing of the hospital station because of an epidemic, we added 13,438 to the count.

Increases in circulation were divided as follows: Main library 926 v., the schools 7,926; Brooklyn Branch 2,895, and playgrounds 6,968; a total of 15,059 which was reduced to 13,438 by losses in other departments just mentioned.

The library was open for the circulation of books on 303 week days, and on Sundays for reading and reference from October to April inclusive. The largest circulation at the main library in any one day, and the largest since the opening of the library in 1869 was 1,630 v., issued on February eighteenth.

Circulation by Classes in Main Library

	Adult	Per Cent	Juvenile	Per Cent
General Works	4,085	2.32	756	1.27
Philosophy	1,819	1.04	24	.03
Religion	958	.55	684	1.09
Sociology	2,313	1.32	3,835	6.12
Language	681	.39	0	
Science	2,003	1.14	1,688	2.69
Useful Arts	6,023	3.40	1,426	2.27
Fine Arts	3,955	2.25	2,406	3.27
Literature	9,492	5.40	3,378	5.39
Travel	2,629	1.50	4,296	6.86
Biography	3,951	2.25	2,029	3.24
History	2,080	1.18	3,232	5.16
Foreign	3,721	2.12		
Pamphlets	530	.30		
Fiction	131,561	74.84	39,173	62.61
Total.....	175,801	100.00	62,567	100.00

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

Approximately 7,373 reference questions were noted at the Information Desk during 1922. The apparent decrease from the total of 8,897 reported for 1921 was due to the fact that beginning in September, questions duplicated on the same day were counted only when additional material had to be furnished; also, reference work for grammar school pupils, always a considerable amount, was transferred to the Children's Room.

This latter change in the work of the department proved particularly advantageous. The children were given material better adapted to their comprehension, the reference librarians had more time for work with adult borrowers and high school students, and there was less confusion at the study tables.

The subject of antiques was popular throughout the year, especially volumes relating to pressed glass, English and American hallmarks, old china, and colonial furniture, the latter proving of particular interest at the time of Mr. Nutting's lecture at the Mattatuck Historical Society.

Debate material was in demand by various organizations and by the schools. Books on the Restriction of immigration, Repeal or modification of the Volstead Act, Recognition of Soviet Russia, and cancellation of the Allied debt were all on reserve at the same time.

The collection of plays for amateur production was in almost daily use, as also the files of automobile route maps, not only for New England but for the entire United States. Civil service instruction books and specimen examinations were in great demand, and there were frequent requests for information relating to entrance regulations and examinations for West Point and Annapolis.

Our collection of government documents was more valuable than ever in the reference work, the Congressional Record, geological survey bulletins, and topographical maps being those most frequently consulted.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT

Readers in this department totaled 11,219, a gain of 768 over last year, but the circulation of books, 4,657 v., was about 1,000 less than in 1921. A large circulation is not to be expected from this department which is chiefly for reference and study.

There are 77 periodicals on file which are in constant use and many notes are taken from the books and many hours spent in reading on subjects for which several volumes may be in use at one time. The department is a favorite with the men of the city, who regard it as their special province and are inclined to resent the fact that, owing to limited space, books on banking, finance, statistics and economic problems are shelved elsewhere. There are, in round numbers, 4,000 volumes in this department, in which mechanic processes and trades, and electricity with its application to the telegraph, the telephone and the automobile, are well represented. The section on accounting has been much praised; also the books on business efficiency, salesmanship and related topics. A complete set of U. S. patent reports from 1856 to the present time, is of great value for reference.

A catalogue of the books including in alphabetical order the subjects treated, as well as the names of the authors, adds to the ease with which information may be found.

Many of the men who use the department have read thoroughly along the lines in which they are interested, and are sometimes helpful in volunteering information to the librarian when there is difficulty in answering some abstruse question. The average daily attendance for the year was 31; the largest in any one day, 80 readers.

Art Room. There are certain points at which the useful arts enter the sphere of fine arts. Building connects naturally with architecture, carpentry with cabinet work and artistic furniture, advertising with poster work, and mechanical drawing with decorative design. These and such subjects as basketry, hand weaving, lacemaking, embroidery and art crafts generally are of considerable interest to the people of Waterbury, so that during the past year we have found it advisable to rearrange the contents of the Art Room in order to make the books on these subjects more accessible. A growing use of these volumes and of the circulating collection of pictures is noticeable, and additions of interesting volumes are made as our funds permit.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

School libraries. Owing to the lack of branch libraries in strategic positions, the distribution of books through traveling libraries sent to the schools has been carried further by the Bronson Library than by any library in Connecticut. The first traveling library was sent to the Barnard School in 1905 and the system was extended during the succeeding years until 1909 when Miss Sarah N. Church was placed in charge of the work for children and developed a system which has done much to make the library known and appreciated in the outer parts of the city. In 1905, 10,213 books were circulated through the schools, and in 1922, 88,020. Adding to this the playground distribution of books makes a total for the year of 102,339 or one fourth of the issues of the entire library system. This result has been achieved by careful supervision of the work involving visits to the schools in the mornings during January, February, and March. On these visits the books were looked over, statistics of circulation compiled, and the volumes needing repairs were sent back to the main library. Occasion was also taken for story-telling in the primary grades, and in the upper grades, to stimulate interest in some of the better books.

The books were given out to the children once a week by the teachers, a special period being allowed for the purpose. Schoolhouses furnished with these libraries numbered 29, including in all 205 rooms.

The circulation ranged from 734 volumes, given out at the Park Road School, to 7,749 volumes, at Webster School.

Playgrounds. Library service was provided in the playgrounds at Hopeville, Fulton Park, Mill Street, Washington Park, Bishop Street, East Farms and St. Mary's.

Fifty-six boxes of books (16 boxes more than last year) were provided for July and August. The circulation (14,319 volumes) based on a collection of 3,360 volumes was nearly fifty per cent. more than last year. Over 6,000 volumes were given out at East Farms where the issues on one day rose to 914 volumes, stopping at that point because the supply of books was exhausted.

An important part of the library work on the playgrounds was the development of the story-hour as a daily or frequent attraction. Story-telling was carried on not only by the children's librarian and her assistants on their weekly visit to each playground, but also by the city workers who followed with success a suggestive outline furnished by the Children's

Department of the Bronson Library. This consisted of an exposition of the principles of story-telling, a list of books for reference, a list of poems for reading aloud, and a selection of stories which in numberless tests had proved favorites with children. The result was gratifying, the total attendance for the eight weeks being 14,922, with an average of 56 children on each occasion. During the last week in August the books were collected, delinquent borrowers were followed up, and everything was returned in good order to the Bronson Library.

Children's Book Week. This was originally started by the publishers to encourage the sale of children's books and has been made the occasion by many libraries, for an exhibition of the best books for children and for an extra effort to attract children to the library.

Owing to lack of space for handling crowds, we have found it best to limit the attendance to adults, trying to interest parents especially, in children's reading. The Art Room of the library was devoted to the purpose for a week in November. Eighty-five invitations were sent out to persons interested and a gratifying attendance resulted. Woodbury, Naugatuck and Watertown were all represented among the visitors, and three high school principals came to examine the books. One was especially pleased with the Children's Book of Celebrated Pictures, on account of its bearing on subjects suitable for the decoration of school libraries. The attendance numbered 127 people.

Waterville Branch. A fire on the night of Feb. 17th caused the closing of the Waterville Branch for two months. The chief damage was from smoke and water and was covered by an insurance payment of $343.00. Furniture and books were transported to the main library to be looked over and replacements made while the owner of the building engaged in its restoration. The library was reopened February eighteenth, with three feet added to the length of the room and much improved in appearance by fresh wall paper and paint.

The Staff. Miss Lillian Landgren and Miss Frances Minor both resigned in March to be married. Miss Marion C. Kingman left the first of September; also Miss Bernice L. McLean to begin a course of study at Mt. Holyoke College. Miss Cornelia B. Doherty completed her course in library training at Pratt Institute, and in September replaced Miss Landgren in the reference department, bringing with her another graduate of Pratt Institute, Miss Frances H. Stevenson. The Children's Department received a new assistant in

Miss Marjorie L. Abbott, whose course at Simmons College had included some special library training. Miss Abbott began her work in July. Mrs. L. W. Mead entered as a general assistant in March. Hannah T. Fitzgerald was appointed a junior assistant in January.

These changes and adjustments interfered somewhat with the efficient working of the library, especially as the most important resignations occurred at the busiest time of the year, but a fine spirit was shown by the members of the staff and things went on as smoothly as could be expected under the circumstances.

GENERAL REMARKS

Since 1901, the year of my appointment as librarian, over 66,000 volumes have been worn out or lost from the library, and yet the collection of books has doubled in number, and the pamphlet collection, which at that time was non-existent, contains between twenty and thirty thousand pieces.

The proper care of this accumulation and its utilization for the benefit of the public requires an elaborate system of records, and as it is quite beyond the mental grasp of any one person to have an intelligent knowledge of so many books, a division into departments has become necessary, each with its own librarian, devoloping and varying its activities. It is only thus that the library can be prevented from sinking under its own weight and becoming a mere storehouse of dead books.

Unfortunately our work has reached the limit of its expansion in the present building, such departments as we have being hampered by lack of money for new books, and by lack of space, and tending to fall into chaos. We need more room everywhere. We need a school reference room. We need a department for our citizens of foreign birth where books in their own language can be found and the use of the library be sympathetically taught. Also we should have well-equipped branch libraries in the outlying parts of the city. Already the distribution of books through outside agencies totals over 170,000 volumes, tho our branch libraries are only deposit stations open a few hours in the week, and the school libraries are used but once a week during eight months in the year. We have only scratched the surface of the field that lies before us. Out of a population of 100,000 but 10,000 on the average use the library.

A recent pronouncement of the American Library Association is that the minimum requirement for a library system in any community is $1.00 per capita of the population, but that

for a thoroughly efficient organization much more would be needed. According to this estimate Waterbury provides through city appropriation about one fourth of the minimum requirement for the upkeep of the library, the income from other sources making the total equal to one half, while Bridgeport with a population of 143,000 and an appropriation of $200,000 from the city, leads the way for all the cities of Connecticut.

Within the last four years the gain in circulation has totaled 158,451 volumes, and our resources have been strained to the breaking point. With the progressive deterioration of the books and the lack of ability to meet new demands it is unlikely that we shall be able to maintain our large circulation during the coming year, or make any improvement in supplying the varied demands on the service of the library. Not much can be expected from the city at present, but an effort should be made to present our needs plainly and prevent economy from beginning with the library appropriation.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN SPERRY

Librarian

BRONSON LIBRARY FUND

STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1922

Debit:

Balance on hand January 1, 1922	$ 3,817.20
Received on principal fund	8,889.60
Received from interest	14,675.59
Received from City of Waterbury (Appro.)	27,500.00
Received from Helen Sperry (Librarian)	3,887.72
Received from Fire Ins. Cos. (Waterville)	343.00
Received from money borrowed	8,000.00
	$67,113.11

Credit:

Loans of Principal	$11,900.00

EXPENDITURES

From Income

Board of Agents	$ 930.90	
Book binding	3,097.77	
Books	8,453.96	
Car tickets	263.74	
Fire Insurance	823.70	
Fuel	164.19	
Furniture	198.32	
Lighting	648.50	
Pamphlets and Periodicals	992.07	
Repairs	1,979.21	
Salaries	25,229.42	
Stationery and Postage	327.01	
Supplies	752.99	
Transportation	139.12	
Miscellaneous	638.41	44,639.31

Branches:

Brooklyn	117.61	
Rose Hill	167.77	
Waterville	361.72	647.10
Repayment of money borrowed	5,000.00	
Interest on money borrowed	65.76	
Note due Colonial Trust Co.	3,000.00	
Balance on hand January 1, 1923	1,860.94	9,926.70
		$67,113.11

Examined and found correct,
January 31, 1923.

B. H. FITZPATRICK,
MARTIN SCULLY,
J. S. ELTON,
Finance Committee.

STATISTICS

Arranged according to the form recommended by the American Library Association

Annual report for the year ended December 31, 1922.
Name of library, Silas Bronson Library.
Name of Librarian, Helen Sperry.
Date of founding, 1869.
Population served, 91,715 (1920).
Assessed valuation, $149,510,327,000, about 80 per cent. of total cash value; tax rate, 31.50 mills.
Terms of use, free for lending, free for reference.
Total number of agencies, 40.
Central library, 3 sub-branches (two with separate buildings), 29 school buildings (205 rooms), 7 summer playgrounds.
Open 303 days during year, Central library with three reading rooms, 72 hours per week. Sundays, April to October inclusive, for reading only, four hours per week.

Books: 117,899 volumes January 1, 1922; 7,055 added during the year by purchase; 308 added by gift; 272 added by binding; 6,937 withdrawn.
Total number of volumes January 1, 1923, 118,597.
Pictures, 11,400 (estimated).
Pamphlets, 25,000 (estimated).
Periodicals currently received, 185 titles, 22 extra copies.

Use: Loaned for home use, fiction 289,619 volumes; non-fiction 119,477; total 409,096 volumes; fiction 71 per cent.
Pictures circulated, 1,125.

Registration: Number of borrowers registered during year, 6,681.
Registration period, two years.
Total number of registered borrowers, 14,483.
Per cent. of population served, 15 per cent.
Cost per volume of circulation, 11 cents.
Maintenance cost per capita of population, 50 cents.

FINANCIAL

Trust funds invested	$256,451.20

Receipts from

Endowment funds	$ 14,675.59
City appropriation	27,500.00
Membership fees	23.50
Pay collections	621.34
Fines and sales	3,242.88
Fire insurance companies	343.00
Total	$ 46,406.31

EXPENSES

Books	$ 8,453.96
Periodicals and pamphlets	992.07
Binding	3,097.77
Board of Agents	930.90
Salaries, janitor service	2,964.00
Salaries, library service	22,265.42
Fuel	164.19
Light	648.50
Furniture and repairs	2,177.53
Supplies	752.99
Printing	327.01
Telephone	196.78
Transportation	402.86
Miscellaneous	1,265.33
Branches	647.10
	$ 45,286.41
Unexpended balance	1,119.90
	$46,406.31